THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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T20 WORLD CUP 2024: THE WHO, WHY AND WHEN OF SUPER 8s

With the group stages coming to an end on Monday, a look at the teams that have progressed, what lies ahead and more...

HOW ARE THE GROUPINGS MADE?

While the top two teams from each group advanced, their seedings in Super 8s will be based on initial grouping. For example, Afghanistan will remain C1 even if they finish below West Indies in Group C as the former will be replacing New Zealand in the original grouping made by the global cricketing body before the tournament | P11

WHO WILL FACE INDIA AND WHEN?

- India, who will be A1, are up against Australia (B2), Afghanistan (C1) and either of Bangladesh/Netherlands (D2). They will begin their Super 8s journey against Afghanistan on Thursday
- The other Super 8s group will feature England, both the tournament hosts — West Indies, United States — and South Africa

THREE

MATCHES WERE ABANDONED DUE TO RAIN DURING GROUP STAGES SO FAR

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Shah seeks Kashmir-like zero-terror plan in Jammu

Says Centre committed to rooting out terrorism from the region

MUKESH RANJAN @New Delhi

UNION Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asked security agencies to replicate their success in tackling terrorism in the Kashmir Valley in the Jammu division as well. Noting that the fight against terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is in its decisive phase, Shah directed security agencies to implement 'area domination' and 'zero-terror plans' in Jammu like they did in Kashmir.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the prevailing security situation in Jammu & Kashmir in the wake of recent terror attacks, Shah directed the security agencies to work on a mission mode and ensure quick response in a coordinated manner, officials said.

Reiterating the Centre's 'zero-tolerance policy' against terrorism, Shah said the government will root out terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir. The government's efforts have yielded great results in Kashmir with significant reduction in terror-related incidents and improvement in the law and order situation, which is "reflected in the record inflow of tourists in the Valley", he added.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, Army Chief General Manoj Pande, Army Chief-designate Lt General Upendra Dwivedi, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, CRPF Director General Anish Dayal Singh, BSF Director General Nitin Agarwal, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police R R Swain and other top security officials attended the meeting, which was held in the wake of terror attacks in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts. The attacks came within a span of four days last week, killing nine pilgrims and a CRPF jawan, and leaving several others injured.

Later on Sunday, Shah chaired another meeting to review the preparations for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, which is scheduled to begin on June 29. During the deliberation, the minister was given a thorough briefing on the measures taken to ensure a safe and peaceful Yatra, officials said.

During his interaction with the law enforcement and security agencies, the Union home minister appreciated them for the successful conduct of the Lok Sabha elections in the Union territory, which witnessed record voter turnout compared with past elections.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had reviewed the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and directed the "deployment of the full spectrum" of "counter-terror capabilities" in the region. P8

Home Minister Amit Shah during a high-level meeting to review security situation in Jammu & Kashmir and preparedness for Amarnath Yatra, in New Delhi on Sunday | PTI

Why teach riots? NCERT's spin on lesson cuts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

AMID furore over the omission of references to Gujarat riots and Babri masjid demolition in the Class 12 syllabus, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) director Dinesh Prasad Saklani sought to justify it saying such topics won't benefit students. Such content can create 'violent and depressed citizens', he said in an interview to PTI.

"Should we teach our students in a manner that they become offensive, create hatred in society or become victim of hatred? Is that education's purpose? Should we teach about riots to such young children," he said, adding that hatred and violence should not be the focus of school textbooks.

The comments come at a time when new textbooks have hit the market with several deletions and changes. The revised Class 12 political science textbook does not mention the Babri masjid but refers to it as a "three-domed structure". It has pruned the Ayodhya section from four to two pages and deleted details from the earlier version. It instead focuses on the Supreme Court judgement that paved the way for the construction of a Ram temple at the site where the disputed structure once stood before it was torn down by Hindu activists in December 1992.

The changes in textbooks have triggered a controversy with critics accusing NCERT of promoting saffronisation of the school curriculum. Rejecting such notions, Saklani said: "If something has become irrelevant ... it will have to be changed. Why shouldn't it be changed? I don't see any saffronisation here. We teach history so students know about facts, not for making it a battleground."

Claiming that the NCERT's curriculum is based on facts and evidence, Saklani said, "If we are telling about iron pillar in Mehrauli and saying Indians were way ahead of any metallurgical scientist, are we saying wrong?"

Dinesh Prasad Saklani, director of NCERT | PTI

Centre has taken note of NEET lapses, guilty to face serious action: Pradhan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhubaneswar

AMID nationwide outrage over the NEET-UG fiasco, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday said the Centre has taken note of two incidents of lapses in the test and those found guilty will face serious action. Pradhan also said that the Centre is mulling necessary reforms in the National Testing Agency (NTA), an autonomous agency under the Education Ministry, tasked with conducting the nationwide medical entrance exam.

"Two incidents of lapses pertaining to NEET has come to fore. Initial information was that some students were upset for getting less time in the exam and awarded grace marks. However, the government rejected it and on the recommendations of the Supreme Court, ordered a retest of 1,563 candidates in six centres," he said. He also said some irregularities have come to light at two places. "I assure students and parents that the government has taken serious note of it. All these matters will be taken to their logical conclusion and accountability will be fixed on those found guilty for the lapses," he said. "No matter how senior official of NTA someone is, if lapses are found they will face strict action," he added.

The Union Minister said the NTA also needs a lot of improvement. "The NTA is an autonomous organisation. However, it needs reforms and the government has taken this into consideration," he said while reassuring the students that the guilty will not be spared and will get the harshest punishment.

Notably, allocation of grace marks and allegations of question-paper leak in the NEET-UG exam has muddied the testing system that selects students for the medical colleges. After the Supreme Court's observation, the NTA has revoked grace marks awarded to the 1,563 students and has announced a retest on June 23.

Dharmendra Pradhan

Pic for Representation

Darshan to be charged for keeping geese at farmhouse

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

TROUBLE continues to mount for actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who is already under arrest for the murder of 34-year-old S Renukaswamy of Chitradurga. The forest department, investigating the illegal possession of **bar-headed geese** at Darshan's farmhouse on the Mysuru-T Narasipura Road here, will be submitting its chargesheet in two days.

Forest officials had booked a case against the actor, his wife Vijayalakshmi and farmhouse manager Nagaraj, under various Sections of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, for illegally keeping the migratory birds in a cage at the farmhouse, in Kempaianahundi village, in January 2023.

It all began when Darshan had reportedly stated in an interview that he had bar-headed geese at his farmhouse, and also reportedly showed the birds kept in a cage to the interviewer.

CONTINUED ON: P3

Israel pauses fighting during daytime along key aid route

AGENCIES

AMID warnings about dire shortages of food and other essentials in the Gaza Strip, Israel on Sunday announced it will pause fighting during daytime along a route in the southern part of the Strip to facilitate aid deliveries.

"A local, tactical pause of military activity for humanitarian purposes will take place from 8.00 am (0500 GMT) until 7.00 pm (1600 GMT) every day until further notice along the road that leads from the Kerem Shalom crossing to the Salah al-Din road and then northwards," a statement by the Israeli military said.

Overland access restrictions and the closure of the key Rafah crossing with Egypt since Israeli forces seized it in early May have made it tough to get essential supplies to those in need. The "tactical pause," which applies to about 12 kilometers of road in the Rafah area, falls far short of a complete cease-fire that has been sought by the international community, including Israel's principal ally, the United States, AP News reported.

The United Nations welcomed the Israeli decision. "We hope this leads to further concrete measures by Israel to address longstanding issues preventing a meaningful humanitarian response in Gaza," UN aid agency OCHA's spokesman Jens Laerke said in an email to AFP. P9

Palestinian children collect food aid in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip | AFP

Baby sale racket: Raid on quack's farmhouse reveals buried foetuses

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

POLICE officials, in association with health and revenue departments, raided the farmhouse of a quack and carried out a search operation in Basarakod village of Kittur taluk on Sunday. During the operation, officials traced the remains of three foetuses buried on the property.

It may be recalled that the Malmaruti police of Belagavi had arrested five individuals on June 9, including a fake doctor, for attempting to sell a one-month-old infant girl for Rs 1.5 lakh. The accused were identified as Mahadevi alias Priyanka Bahubali Jain from Neginhal village in Bailhongal taluk, Dr Abdul Gafar Husainsab Ladkhan, a fake doctor from Kittur, Chandan Girimallappa Subhedar from Bailhongal taluk, Pavitra Somappa Madiwalar and Praveen Manjunath Madiwalar. Rajkumar Singappa Rathod, coordinator of the District Child Protection Unit at the Government Adoption Centre, filed a case against them.

According to police sources, the one-month-old baby was born after Dr Ladkhan, who was approached by Praveen and Pavitra Madiwalar, helped in the delivery. The couple had initially approached Dr Ladkhan to carry out an abortion. However, Dr Ladkhan facilitated the delivery and kept the baby with him. He allegedly sold the baby for Rs 60,000, and later commission agents attempted to sell her for Rs 1.40 lakh. Acting on this information, police nabbed the accused, who confessed to the crime during interrogation.

Ladkhan had been running a clinic in Kittur town, posing as an MBBS doctor for over 10 years. A couple of days ago, the health department seized his clinic. Ladkhan was arrested for allegedly assisting Mahadevi Jain, a nurse from Neginahal village, sell babies to affluent families after purchasing them from the poor at a low cost. In the wee hours of Sunday, officials from health, revenue and police departments, led by Assistant Commissioner Prabhavati Fakirpur, local tahsildar Ravindra Hadimani, District Health Officer Dr Mahesh Koni and DySP Ravi Naik raided Ladkhan's farmhouse. P5

EXPRESS READ

Will support TDP's LS Speaker bid, says Raut

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday said all partners of the Opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc will try to ensure support for the ruling ally TDP, if it fields a candidate for the Lok Sabha Speaker's election. Raut claimed that if the BJP gets the post, it will break the parties like the TDP and the JDU. P7

Journalist booked for fake news on Rahul

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee on Sunday lodged a police complaint against journalist and YouTuber Ajeet Bharti, accusing him of alleging that Congress MP Rahul Gandhi intended to replace the Ram Mandir with the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. P4

Rahul questions credibility of EVMs

New Delhi: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said EVMs in India are a "black box" which nobody is allowed to scrutinise, and asserted that concerns are being raised about the country's electoral process. He also tagged a post by Tesla CEO Elon Musk in which he talked about eliminating EVMs. P7

MY SUPERHERO

As the world celebrates Father's Day, a child sleeps in the warm embrace of his father, near Cubbon Park, in Bengaluru on Sunday | ASWINA

'Fuel price hike for devpt, guarantees'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayapura

DEFENDING the Congress-led dispensation's decision to increase the Value-Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel in Karnataka, Minister for Medium and Large Industries MB Patil on Sunday stated that the government needs funds for its development projects, and for the implementation of the five guarantee schemes that the Grand Old Party announced going into the Assembly elections last year.

Addressing the media after chairing a Karnataka Development Programme meeting in Vijayapura on Saturday, Patil, however, mentioned that despite increasing VAT on petrol and diesel in the state, the prices here still remain lower, compared to other states -- such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. He added that the Congress government has hiked the prices of petrol and diesel, with an objective of rationalising the prices compared to the other states.

He further claimed that despite the hike in the prices of petrol and diesel, no unnecessary financial burden has been put on the people of Karnataka. Meanwhile, the minister held the Centre responsible for the steep hike in petrol and diesel prices in India. He claimed that an LPG cylinder which cost around Rs 450 during the UPA era, began to cost over Rs 1,000 during the Modi years.

MORE REPORTS: P4

10% RESERVATION?

Gender parity: DGP wants women to gear up and fight fire

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

FOR the first time in 82 years, the traditionally male-dominated Fire & Emergency Services Department has approached the state government to appoint women firefighters. Accordingly, the department has recommended at least 10 per cent reservation for women in the recruitment of firefighters.

Currently, the role of women staffers at the Karnataka State Fire & Emergency Services Department is limited to desk work. The inclusion of female firefighters in the workforce would be a significant move in promoting gender equality within the fire service.

The proposal has been made by the Director General of Police (DGP) of the Fire & Emergency Services, Kamal Pant. "Women have proved themselves in various challenging roles across different sectors, including the Armed Forces and the police department. It's time we recognise their potential in the fire services as well," Pant said.

"We have proposed to the government the need to change the cadre and recruitment rules to facilitate reservation for women. The proposal is being examined and will soon be sent to the government. The selection process for men and women remains the same," the senior IPS officer said, adding, "The department maintains strict recruitment standards. Our primary concern is public safety. All recruits must be regardless of gender and must meet the standards."

Another senior officer from the fire department mentioned that they plan to improve facilities and working conditions to make the environment more conducive for female staff. "We are confident that the state government will approve our proposal and allow women to work as firefighters," the officer said.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 17.06.2024 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Uttharayana
Ritu: Greeshma • Masa: Jyeshta • Paksha: Sukla • Tithi: Ekadasi 12.04 am
Nakshatra: Chittha 12.19 pm • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 30°C
FORECAST
Showers late. Overcast

Sunrise 05.54 am
Sunset 06.47 pm
Moonrise 02.42 pm
Moonset 01.57 am

FIRE SAFETY

NO WORRIES, SAY MALLS

TNIE reality check finds some measures are in place, but more needs to be done

TEAM TNIE @Bengaluru

WITH the city offering limited outing options for families, many Bengalurueans turn to shopping malls whenever they plan eat, play and have fun. Scores of people throng malls and gaming zones throughout the week and, especially on weekends, the footfall often goes through the roof.

However, the recent fire incident at Acropolis mall in Kolkata and last month's devastating fire outbreak at a gaming zone in Gujarat that led to the death of 27 people has raised questions on the safety aspects in public entertainment venues in the city. Citizens have also expressed alarm at such incidents being repeated in the city.

While there has not been much affect on the footfall, concerns persist. "We visit a mall every fortnight. There are limited options where children can play. There are few parks or playgrounds in the city. We also need to buy groceries and other home items. So a mall is the ideal place. There are games for children to stay occupied and stores to buy kitchen and household articles. There are also food courts. But now with the fire incident, we are looking to reduce the number of visits," said Rekha and Naveen L, a couple.

Many other people also share the same view. But mall managements seek to allay such fears, saying there is nothing to worry about.

Team TNIE did a reality check in malls and interacted with the managements. We found emergency exits, but some were locked. In some malls, there were no fire extinguishers at easily identifiable places. However, the management assured us that all safety measures were in place.

The management of Garuda Mall claimed that the mall staffers are on high alert. Nandeesh MR, CEO Garuda Mall, pointed out that they have 180 security guards deployed in shifts of 60 each. "The staffers are trained to handle any fire-related emergencies. Also a mock drill is conducted every Monday. Fire sprinklers and extinguishers are in place, including at the parking lot. Seven lakh litres of water is stored to deal with fire-related emergencies," he said.

He clarified that almost all the malls in the city operate only after obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the fire and emergency department.

The staffers at Orion Mall said they conduct regular mock drills due to the presence of an adjoining apartment. They also said they check if sprinklers get sufficient water and safety signs are in place.

At Forum Mall, citizens expressed concern with the less number of emergency exit sign boards and lack of visible fire extinguishers at every floor. Divakar, a staff member, said the mall has six exit points in case of emergency. There is a fire alarm system and a fire extinguisher system too. Every floor has smoke detectors and route maps for emergencies. The staff also have basic knowledge about using the fire extinguishers and a monthly drill is conducted.

Uday Vijayan, Managing Trustee and President, Beyond Carlton, said with the rising number of malls, there is a concern about narrow roads leading to them. Though from 2010, when the fire at Carlton Towers had happened, till now, progress has been made, a lot more needs to be done. With spaces shrinking in the city, building setbacks must be ensured. "We are still not 100% safe. But awareness has increased," he said.

Experts have also raised concern of the parking systems in malls, assembly points in the parking spaces and at entrances which also have stalls.

BBMP checks

Sirajuddin Madani, Chief Health Officer, BBMP, said last year, the corporation conducted a reality check in malls, hotels and restaurants in the city when there was a fire incident at the Mudpipe Cafe in Koramangala. Inspections were again done this year after a fire incident was reported at a gaming zone in Gujarat.

"All malls that have gaming zones also need to get an additional NOC from the agencies, including the fire and emergency department. The zonal BBMP officers have been put on alert and have been directed to conduct periodic inspections of malls across the city. If any lapses are found then the malls will be closed down immediately. All malls should have a NOC from fire and emergency department. They should meet and maintain all the set rules and standards. They should have water sprinklers, fire extinguishers, emergency exits, proper ventilation and other things that have been listed," he said.

Stay alert

Fire and Emergency Service DG and IGP Kamal Pant said there is awareness among the public on fire safety measures. Investors and brands housed in malls will not approve if the malls do not have the required permissions, he noted.

He added that there is a periodic renewal of licence, which the management of the malls and other public spaces have to comply with. The terms and conditions are spelt out in detail to all the large and small, commercial and residential spaces when seeking NOCs.

Also after the construction is completed, the fire and emergency teams check the sites before giving the final clearance. The same exercise is repeated every two years when renewing the licence. Largely all units comply with the norms.

Pant added that they are also conducting regular training sessions for citizens on fire and emergency. It is also mandatory for residents of apartment complexes and staff of commercial spaces to be trained in fire and emergency management, when seeking licence renewal. "People are now alert. They are now aware and it is a good thing," he said.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION
WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN
CROWDED PLACES
Check for signboards of emergency exits and make mental notes of locations
Check lighting and ventilation spaces
Carry few things as it is easy to run in case of emergency
Never get into a lift or use escalator in case of any untoward incident
Pay attention to public announcements
Note where fire extinguishers are
Ensure exits are open 24x7, check them if necessary
EXIT
Note the presence and locations of security staffers

Green Line extn to Madavara will start ops only by Sept-end

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

WITH crucial infrastructure and testing work yet to be completed, commercial operations on the 3.7-km Green Line extension of Bengaluru Metro from Nagasandra to Madavara is likely only by the end of September, said multiple Metro sources. This pushes the latest deadline by two months.

The Rs 298-crore line comprises the three stations of Manjunath Nagar, Chikkabidarakallu (Jindal Nagar) and Madavara (BIEC). While two stations have been completed, some finishing works are still going on at Madavara.

A senior official of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said, "System works, which comprise electrical and signalling, are yet to begin. They will need at least a month to be readied. The Third Rail that supplies power to operate the trains needs to be readied."

Tests need to be carried out and trial runs of the train done for at least 45 days, he added. "Following that, the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety will have to give clearance. It could take up to the end of September for launch of operations," he said. Another official said that minor works at Madavara station would be completed by June-end.

The Madavara Metro station is part of the Rs 298-crore line comprising Manjunath Nagar and Chikkabidarakallu (Jindal Nagar) stations | EXPRESS

BMRCL Managing Director Maheswar Rao had assured *TNIE* a few months ago that the launch would happen by July-end. Asked about reasons for the latest delay, another senior official said, "Parliamentary elections and workers leaving definitely had an impact. Work did not take place at the pace we expected."

This small stretch had encountered more problems than any other Metro route. It had a deadline of August 2019 but encountered numerous issues -- Anchepalya villagers stalling work demanding a Metro station closer to their village, cancellation of contract with Simplex Infrastructure, Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises not permitting access for the viadict to pass over its NICE Road and the pandemic.

The line will enormously help public visiting Bangalore International Exhibition Centre which will have a station in its vicinity. Residents of Nelamangala, Makali and Madanayakanahalli, and those entering Bengaluru from Tumakuru could get connected to the heart of the city by boarding a train at the end station Madavara.

BDA set to e-auction 149 corner sites

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Bangalore Development Authority recently issued a public notification on e-auctioning of 149 corner as well as intermediary sites. The e-auction will commence on Tuesday and the last date to express interest in participation in the process is June 29.

Corner sites are the main revenue source for the BDA and are priced much higher than regular sites.

Live bidding will commence at 11 am on July 1 and will conclude at 5 pm on July 2. The bidding will be for 74 sites in many areas, including different blocks of Banashankari VIth stage, Anjanapura, Ullalu, Gowrinayakanahalli, Valegarahalli and Malalahalli. Bidding for another 75 sites will also commence at 11 am on July 1 and conclude by 5 pm on July 4, covering a few areas, including HBR First Stage, HRBR 2nd Block and Banashankari VIth stage (7th Block). For location of sites and details, log on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

PES, Florida varsity ink MoU on forensic sciences

Bengaluru: PES University and Florida International University, Miami, on Sunday formalised a strategic partnership to enhance academic cooperation, foster innovation through cutting-edge research and promote cultural exchange. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked during an event in the city in the presence of delegates from both universities. The aim is to leverage the strengths of FIU in forensic sciences, investigative processes and forensic evidence for justice with PESU's expertise in areas such as the use of AI/ML applied to Cyber Forensics, Blockchain technologies, drones and underwater forensics. The three-year partnership will allow students to understand emerging technologies such as ethical and responsible use of AI for societal good, Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity to combat cybercrimes and ensure timely justice using digital evidence. ENS

Cloth merchants' body launches new directory

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Bangalore Wholesale Cloth Merchants' Association (BWCMA) launched a new members' directory at the Textiles Vyapari Sammelan held here on Sunday. The directory, listing over 1,200 textile businesses, aims to enhance collaboration among merchants and improve access to contact information and services.

The event at Palace Grounds featured key figures, including Governor Thawaarchand Gehlot and Lok Sabha MP P C Mohan, BWCMA president Prakash Pirgal and National Traders Welfare Board Chairman Sunil Singhi.

Featuring contact numbers, establishment details and other essential information of all members of the trade association, the directory will facilitate better business connections and provide customers with a comprehensive view of their options in the textile market.

Ghelot praised the initiative for promoting better business practices in the textile sector.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

17TH June : The Moon is passing through energetic zones. In my opinion, this just about adds up to a day when we can all alter our arrangements and adjust our opinions. I guess the thing to do is make the necessary changes without causing too much chaos - or letting other people down.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Why do you let other people push you around? You must stand up for yourself if financial differences have become a cause of contention, but to do so you must be absolutely sure of your ground. Other people have the best ideas, by the way, so listen well.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Current plane-tary patterns have tended to make you over-confident in the financial sphere. You must bear in mind that purchases and commit-ments you enter into now will have to be paid for sooner or later. In love, take it easy and play it cool.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You have no right to expect other people to bail you out, neither should they. That witty planet Mercury is urging you to take responsibility for your own actions, no matter what knocks your confi-dence has taken lately. The day's intensity could be unsettling, but you'll survive.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You have been waiting for a partnership to bear positive results for a considerable time. Yet no matter what you have done, the entire situation has remained maddeningly vague and a close friend has proved impossible to pin down. At work, take obstacles in your stride.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Much as it disagrees with your basic temperament, when the Moon encourages service and self-sacrifice, as it does today, you must knuckle under and perform those chores and tasks which lesser mortals regard as normal. You're still full of energy, but don't burn yourself up.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
It is because Virgos are said to be so logical and analytical that many people fall into the trap of believing that you lack imagination. However, over the next two to three months, a number of close friends will discover the true extent of your talents.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Mars' new location could indicate a bout of strong speaking. Your tendency to agree with what anybody else says gets you out of trouble sometimes, but right now you must stand your ground. Otherwise, busi-ness and financial affairs will take a turn for the worse. Mercury's support is genuinely helping you discover the truth.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
After months of suppressed emotions and anger over the way you have been treated in the past, you may now speak your mind. Yet please be careful not to make any unfair allegations or unjust accusations. Keep a secret for a little while longer, and help others over a personal hurdle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
So much is going on behind the scenes that you will tend to feel out of control of your own fears and suspicions. The planets are creating illusions to lure you into actions or statements you'll come to regret, so keep a clear head, at least for today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You're quite a shy person and are reluctant to show your true feelings, even to close friends. Today, you must make an effort to understand your emotional inclinations, otherwise you'll fail to maximise your potential. An adventurous approach in love wins the day.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Seldom has so much depended on your ability to make your point with firmness and integrity, at the same time as steering clear of any statement or argument which is guaranteed to upset colleagues. If a new responsibility comes your way, you may have to accept, whatever your doubts.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You may gain from disputes which are causing distress to friends and partners. You, unlike them, have an ability to see the larger picture and long-term consequences of their activities. In love, you are struggling to get your point across, but you may have to wait a little longer.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

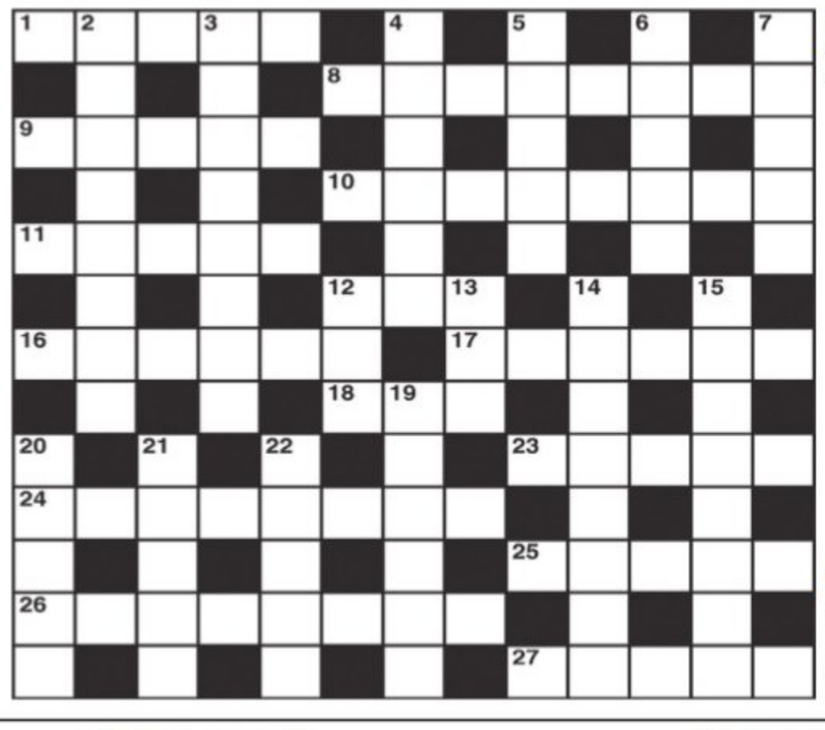
5				4	7			
		6		1				
	3	2	8				9	7
			7			9		
	1	5				2	7	
		4			1			
2	5				3	6	4	
				9		1		
			4	2				8

7	8	1	4	2	6	9	3	5
3	5	6	9	1	8	7	2	4
2	9	4	7	5	3	8	1	6
1	2	9	5	6	4	3	8	7
6	3	5	2	8	7	4	9	1
4	7	8	1	3	9	6	5	2
5	4	7	8	9	2	1	6	3
9	1	3	6	7	5	2	4	8
8	6	2	3	4	1	5	7	9

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Row about South Carolina film award (5)
8 Newly-built homes - and so attractive (8)
9 Criminal may be cleared (5)
10 Music which may be seen and read (8)
11 Room for some learning (5)
12 Before Eve has a change of heart (3)
16 We hear an officer is at the heart of things (6)
17 Treated with care (6)
18 Little, medium or large inland sea (3)
23 French word to use as a maxim (5)
24 An office in which little or no work gets done (8)
25 Main line luggage (5)
26 Left some legal document around (8)
27 A bit of a lad ultimately fully grown (5)

DOWN
2 Royal trappings differ in some respects (8)
3 I'd interrupted to stress a chancy outcome (8)
4 Run a profession (6)
5 He could get trilled if made to work (5)
6 Girl who's grown up in the West Country (5)
7 Having no inclination for a palindrome (5)
12 Wood used by model-makers (3)
13 Close finish (3)
14 Protected me with misplaced ardour (8)
15 He should always be prepared to offer a challenge (8)
19 Didn't work for nothing (6)
20 A team apart (5)
21 Shoot a bird hiding in pines (5)
22 Cut a record (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Appearance, 6 Carp, 10 Clout, 11 Temperate, 12 Terrapin, 13 Ensue, 15 Lullaby, 17 Swarmed, 19 Burnt up, 21 Shearer, 22 Tasks, 24 Going for, 27 False dawn, 28 Abode, 29 Ward, 30 Stay-at-home.

Down: 1 Arch, 2 Propeller, 3 Astir, 4 Autopsy, 5 Cements, 7 Amass, 8 Pretenders, 9 Leverage, 14 All but a few, 16 Attested, 18 Marco Polo, 20 Pageant, 21 Spinney, 23 Solar, 25 Giant, 26 Mete.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

MICPR

NETEV

YAADPY

NNVIET

Hey! Watch it! You've had enough of that today.
4/22
WHEN SHE TRIED TO TAKE AWAY HER FELINE'S FAVORITE AROMATIC HERB TOY, HER ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: GLAZE FUNNY FRIGID ITALIC
Answer: Her regular dentist was out, but there was another dentist — FILLING IN

A man was brutally murdered near Chikkaballapur Town police station on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Shekar. According to the police, one Shiva Kumar assaulted Shekar and allegedly hit him with a stone, killing him on the spot. Preliminary investigation revealed that Shekar had an affair with Shiva Kumar's wife, which led to the murder. Despite warnings, Shekar did not end the affair

POLICE SEIZE PAVITHRA'S CLOTHES, SANDALS FROM HOUSE

Darshan might be taken to Mysuru for a spot inspection

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

PAVITHRA Gowda, prime accused in the Renukaswamy murder case in which actor Darshan is also one of the arrested, was taken by the police for spot mahazar at her residence in Rajarajeshwari Nagar on Sunday afternoon.

According to the police, Pavithra was the first to hit the victim with her sandals on June 9, the day of the murder.

The police took Pavithra along with accused number three Pavan, who was a worker at her house, for the inspection. The officials, along with the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team, examined the two-storey building for about two hours and seizes the clothes she was wearing on the day of incident and the sandals she used to allegedly beat the victim.

Pavithra has been staying at the house for the last 10 years, while Pavan was given accommodation in a room on the ground floor. Both Pavithra's residence and Pavan's room were checked by the police. While being taken out of the

Pavithra Gowda brought to Magistrate Court in Bengaluru on Saturday | FILE

house, Pavithra and Pavan were seen smiling while curious neighbours stood on the balconies and outside their houses watching the developments. The accused duo was shifted to Annapoorneshwari Nagar police station after the mahazar. It is said that Darshan might be taken to Mysuru for a spot inspection as he gone there for a movie shoot after the murder of Renukaswamy. After the murder, the money deal was done in a hotel in Mysuru where he stayed.

The police took the other four accused for a spot inspection to Chitradurga and seized the car used to kidnap Renukaswamy.

Viral video led to rescue of geese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As the video of the same went viral, the forest department swung into action. A forest mobile squad led by DCF Bhaskar raided the farmhouse at night and rescued the birds from the cage. Bar-headed geese come under Schedule 2 of the WPA. The birds were later released into the Hadinaru Lake near Mysuru, after seeking court permission.

Each winter, thousands of bar-headed geese from Mongolia and Tibet fly over the Himalayas, traversing more than 3,500 km, to reach the Indian subcontinent, and return only in April.

Meanwhile, Mysuru Circle Chief Conservator of Forests Malathi Priya reiterated that the chargesheet will be filed to the court in 2-3 days.

GOVT SHOULD PROVIDE JOB TO RENUKASWAMY'S WIFE, SAYS SEER

Chitradurga Rambhapuri Jagadguru Prasanna Renuka Veerasomeshwara Swami on Sunday visited the house of Renukaswamy, who was murdered allegedly by actor Darshan and his accomplices in Bengaluru and consoled the bereaved family. The pontiff urged the state government to ensure justice to the family and also a government job to the wife of Renukaswamy. "The murder of Renukaswamy has created a type of fear psychosis in society. I am glad to know that the police are functioning effectively and transparently in this case," he said. He also lauded the work of the state police and said that these types of crimes shouldn't occur in future. The seer also urged politicians not to exert pressure on the investigation and ensure that justice is given to the family of Renukaswamy. Further, he said that no one is above law.

Father of accused laid to rest in C'durga

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chitradurga

THE body of Chandranna (60), father of Anukumar, one of the accused in the sensational Renukaswamy murder case, was laid to rest on late Saturday night at the cemetery located near Kanaka Circle on Holalkere Road here. As soon as the seventh accused in the murder case, Anukumar, came after obtaining permission for the funeral from the court, the Bengaluru City Police brought him to his house located in Sihi Neeru Honda.

Looking at the body of his father, Anu broke down and sat near his father's body for some time. Looking at the condition of Anukumar, the family members, mainly his mother Jayamma, too broke down. She hugged her son and expressed her helplessness. Immediately, the body was taken for the final rites.

It can be recalled here that Chandranna, who collapsed due to low blood pressure on Holalkere Road, died at a hospital due to severe cardiac arrest on Friday, after he heard about the arrest of his son Anukumar in the Renukaswamy murder case. Anukumar surrendered before the police after which the arrest took place.

The police also came with other three accused (Raghu alias Raghavendra, Jagadish alias Jaggu and Ravi, the car driver) from Chitradurga for the spot mahazar, along with Anukumar.

WOMEN IN BLUE

Spectators cheer for the Indian Women's Cricket team, who faced South Africa, at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

CRIME PATROL

177 dengue, 27 chikungunya cases reported in Hassan, says health official

HASSAN: As many as 177 dengue and 27 chikungunya cases have been reported in Hassan district. The Health Department has collected blood samples of over 4,782 suspected people from different hospitals in the district. According to Dr Shivaswamy, the district health and family welfare officer, the need of the hour is coordination among Health, Education, Urban Local Bodies, PWD and Irrigation departments to combat communicable diseases. The department also is making sincere efforts to create awareness among people about communicable diseases. **ENS**

OVERSPEEDING SPAT

28-year-old man bludgeoned to death in suspected road rage incident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A 28-year-old man was bludgeoned to death by a gang when he was transporting vegetables near Hoskote on the outskirts of Bengaluru in the early hours of Sunday.

The deceased, identified as Naveen Naik, a resident of Gangapura, was on the way to Hoskote market in his Omni van along with his friend Chandrakeshwar when they were attacked.

Police told *TNIE* that a red-coloured car intercepted Naik's van near Mylapura gate on the Bengaluru-Tirupati Highway. At least four men came out of the vehicle and accosted Naik.

Chandrakeshwar managed to escape when the situation turned violent.

Chandrakeshwar told the police that before they were accosted, Naik had got into an argument with a car driver over overspeeding and overtaking, after which they were attacked.

He told the police that when the gang confronted Naik, an argument broke out them, and the situation escalated. One of the suspects took a rod from the car and struck Naik's face continuously, police said and mentioned that they suspect that the argument led to the incident. However, the police have not ruled out other possible motives.

The Hoskote police have registered a case and are investigating whether the assailants followed Naik's vehicle. Police are also examining his background to check if there were any previous altercations.

Student drowns in Ballur lake

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 15-year-old SSLC student drowned in a lake while attempting to swim on Sunday evening. The incident happened at Ballur Lake in Attibele on the outskirts of the city.

The deceased has been identified as Dhanush Gowda, a resident of Attibele.

The police said around 4 pm, three friends came to the lake for a swim. Dhanush, who didn't know swimming properly, went to the middle of the lake and started drowning. His friends started screaming, and by the time locals rushed to the rescue, he had drowned. The police and emergency service recovered the body. The Attibele police have registered an unnatural death report.

Truckers, cabbies say no option but to pass fuel hike burden on customers

ENS @Bengaluru

STRONGLY opposing the hike in fuel price, cab and truck operators said this will severely affect the travel and logistics industry. If the state government doesn't roll back the hike, the operators may have to revise the travel tariffs and have no option, but to pass on the cost to the customers.

GR Shanmugappa, president, Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners' and Agents' Association, said, "Every day, more than 40,000 trucks pass through Karnataka. As the cost of fuel was low in the state, truckers from neighbouring states like Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu used to fill up their tanks here as the price difference was nearly Rs 7 per litre. Every day nearly 40 lakh litres of diesel were filled up in Karnataka's petrol pumps. In this way, the government was earning a tax revenue of Rs 10 crore per day and now the state will lose nearly Rs 3,000 crore this year in tax."

With the sudden hike in petrol and diesel prices, all outstation vehicles will now fill fuel in their respective states as the difference is now around Rs 1-2 per litre, he said. "Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been misguided and not updated about the losses the state would incur in tax because of this fuel hike."

Apart from loss in fuel tax revenue, Shanmugappa said the fuel hike will have a cascading effect on the cost of essential goods. If the the hike is not rolled back, the cost of all essential goods, from fruits, vegetables and food grains, will go up steadily burdening the people.

K Radhakrishna Holla, president, Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association, said hiking the fuel prices right in the middle of the year is not acceptable. "We serve corporates and we would have agreed in the contract with them to operate cabs for a specific rate. With this sudden hike, we have to bear the expenses as the rates cannot be revised mid-year."

Those operating taxis and maxi-cabs will have no option but to transfer the price hike burden on to their customers. At a time when the tourism sector is gaining momentum after being severely hit due to Covid, the price hike will further affect the tourism industry, Holla said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

On behalf of our Client we are hereby issuing this public notice, our client Smt. ARCHANA BASKAR, has hereby purchased the schedule property being Residential Site No.19 (Nineteen), formed in Sy.No.34/6, Previous Dasarahalli City Municipal Council Ward, Presently comes under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Ward No.13, Present BBMP Katha No.167, out of Site Nos. 18 & 19, situated at: Mallasandra Village, Yeswanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, total measuring 1200 Sq.ft. or thereabouts belong to Smt. ARCHANA BASKAR, Aged about 32 Years, Wife of Muniraju.M.K. Alias Nikith, Resident of No.12, Om Sai Nilaya, 3rd Cross, 1st Main, Maheshwari Nagara, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-560048, and the said Smt.Archana Baskar purchased under Sale Deed dt: 03-11-2017, of Book I, C.D. No.PNYD673, Regd No.PNY-1-05714-2017-18, at the Office of Sub-Registrar, Peenya, Bangalore. As My client while shifting their household from Mallasandra to Mahadevapura, while shifted the household items, unfortunately the above said original Sale Deed along with other certified copies and mother deeds related to this documents Building Plan Approval and others where in one file Pouch was misplaced the same is unable trace. The same is placed under police complaint lost report: 1098349/2024, dated.13.06.2024, If found by any person of the original documents relating to the said schedule property they are requested to hand over the same to the below address.

H L A ASSOCIATES
No.31-A, VHBCS Layout, Pipe Line Road, Kurubharahalli, Mahalakshmi Puram, Bengaluru-560086.
Mobile Number : 7411361244 / 9916356556

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client proposed to purchase the schedule property from **Sri. M L Khalid Basha**, S/o. M S Abdul Lathif, Aged about 53 years, Aadhar No.2714 5345 0587, R/at No.37, 2nd Main, 4th Cross, Opp. Counsiller Ellappa's House, Bilekahalli Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560076.

That if any person/s, Bank/s, Authorities have any objections for the proposed sale transactions or claims any kind whatsoever on the schedule property may lodge their claims/objections with documentary proof within **(7) Seven days** from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned, thereafter my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction and any claims received thereafter will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE

ITEM No: 1: All the piece and parcel of the Eastern Portion of property bearing No.37, Old Khatha No. 193, Bommanahalli Nagarasabhe New Khatha No.816, situated at Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and measuring East to West 15 Feet and North to South 45 Feet and bounded on: **East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Western Portion of Property No.37, **North by:** Private Property, **South by:** Road

ITEM No: 2: All the piece and parcel of the Western Portion of property bearing No.37, Old Khatha No. 193, Bommanahalli Nagarasabhe New Khatha No.816, situated at Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and measuring East to West 15 Feet and North to South 45 Feet and bounded on: **East by:** Eastern Potion of same Property No.37, **West by:** Property No.36, **North by:** Private Property, **South by:** Road

GIRISH, Advocate
No.29/30, 58th Cross, 4th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010.
Mobile:9845540992, Date:15-06-2024

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PUBLIC NOTICE

LOST OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the General Public that My client Mrs. Ranjini.V W/o Sri.K.L. Shivalinga Reddy is the absolute Owner of the immovable property bearing Site No.28, Old Assessment No.15/1, New BBMP Khatha No.15/1/28 Situated at Kattigenahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 50 feet and North to South: 30 feet, in all measuring1500 Square feet, the previous Original Registered Sale deed had been lost which is registered on 27.03.2006 registered as document No. YAN-1-18680/2005-06 stored in CD No.YAND183, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka, Bangalore. I had lodged the complaint in Police Unit Bangalore City, on 10.06.2024 Lost Report No. 1092305/2024, if any body found the said sale Deed Original document kindly return to the below mentioned address

RAVISHAIAH .R, Advocate
No.66, 1st Floor, 9th Cross, Nagavarapalya, C.V. Raman Nagar Post, Bangalore 560093.
Mob : 9480241808

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE THAT, my client intends to purchase a vacant residential site measuring an extent of about 492.45 square metres (5,305 square feet) comprised in Site No.663 of the residential layout known as 'Jade Garden West Extension' formed on the residentially converted lands totally measuring an extent of about 38 acres 3 ½ guntas comprised in Survey Nos.206/1, 206/2, 207/2, 209, 210, 211/1, 211/2, 212, 213, 217 & 218 of Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore North, which is morefully described in the 'Schedule' herein and hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property" from its owner, Mr. Mukunda, son of Mr. Ramachar.

If any person/s, entity, firm, institution (corporate or otherwise) has or claims any right, title, interest, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing, together with all details of the right, title, interest, claim, pending litigation or demand made together with supporting documents within fifteen (15) days from the date of this notice, failing which such claim shall be considered to have been waived and/or given up and my client shall be entitled to complete the transaction in respect of the Schedule Property. Objections and/or claims received after the expiry of the period stipulated above shall neither be entertained by nor be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE
SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the vacant residential site measuring an extent of about 492.45 square meters (5,305 square feet) comprised in Site No.663 of the residential layout known as 'Jade Garden West Extension', formed on the residentially converted lands totally measuring an extent of about 38 acres 3 ½ guntas comprised in Survey Nos.206/1, 206/2, 207/2, 209, 210, 211/1, 211/2, 212, 213, 217 and 218 of Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore North, together with common areas amenities and infrastructure and bounded on the:

EAST by : Park and Site No. 662;
WEST by : Site No. 664;
NORTH by : Internal Road;
SOUTH by : Site No. 659.

Purnima D. N., Advocate,
No.48, 2nd Floor, 'Ishita', 2nd Main Road, Vyalikaval, Bangalore 560 003,
Ph: 080-23361120, M:9916821627,
Email: purnimadn@outlook.com
Bangalore
Date: 17/06/2024

Your Guide to Spicy living
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TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Chennai-600 008. Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259
Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in, E-Mail : gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tender is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai - 600008, for the supply of Surgical Consumables from the Manufactures having three years Market Standing and holding Quality Management System (QMS) and from direct Importers holding a valid Import License and experience in the field for a minimum period of three years. Loan Licensees having Valid Loan License with three year Market Standing is also eligible to participate in this tender. All the licenses shall be in accordance with Medical Devices Rules, 2017.

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Tender for the supply of **Surgical Consumables** to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for one year from the date of acceptance	e-010/M(P)/ SURGICAL/ TNMSC/2024, Dated 18.06.2024	18.06.2024 at 4.00 PM to 18.07.2024 upto 4.00 PM	03.07.2024 at 10.00 AM to 18.07.2024 upto 4.00 PM	19.07.2024 at 11.00 AM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at **https://tntenders.gov.in.** The tender document can also be downloaded at **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** for reference purpose.

DIPR / 1940 / TENDER / 2024

Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)

Marriott
CLUSTER PROCUREMENT

The Ritz-Carlton, JW Marriot Bengaluru Prestige Golf shire Resort & Spa, JW Marriott UB City, Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Road, Bengaluru Marriott Hotel Whitefield, Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway, Sheraton Grand Bengaluru Whitefield Hotel & Convention Centre, Courtyard & Fairfield by Marriott ORR, Courtyard Marriott Hebbal, Fairfield by Marriott Rajaji Nagar, Fairfield by Marriott Whitefield, Aloft Bengaluru outer ring road, Four Point by Sheraton, Mulberry Shades Bengaluru Nandi Hills A tribute Portfolio Resort, Moxy Bengaluru Airport Prestige Tech Cloud. Sealed Tenders are invited for annual supply contract in the following categories to Marriott Hotels in Bengaluru for the period of twelve months commencing from **1st Aug - 2024 to 31st July -2025**

Food Products: Groceries - Pulses, Spices, Dry Fruits, Atta & Maida, Vegetables, Fresh Noodles, Fruits, English Vegetables, Meat, Fresh Pork Cuts, Sea Food, Poultry, Milk and Dairy Products, Indian Sweets, Bread, Chapati, Live Counter - Chat Items,

Non - Food Products: Charcoal, Office Stationery, Packaging & Disposable Products, cleaning chemicals Rock Salt, CCG Hiring Services, ODC Vehicles, Engineering consumables.

Tender forms will be available at the office of the Purchase Manager, Sheraton Grand Bengaluru Whitefield Hotel convention Center, Prestige Shanti Niketan Hoodi, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560 048, with an online payment of Rs.3000/-+GST each Category (Non Refundable) Payment should be made via online transfer to the A/c details provided before collecting the tender form between **10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. from 17-06-2024 to 27-06-2024.** Contact No. **Off:** +91 8071008132, **M:** +91 97380 60496.

Sealed Tenders must be addressed to **"The Tender Committee"** Marriott Hotels Bengaluru. (Sheraton Grand Bengaluru, Whitefield). The Tender Committee reserves the right to accept/reject the tenders in full or in the part without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Last date for submission of filled Tender forms is 27-06-2024 before 05:00 PM

IDFC First Bank Limited
(Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd) | CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 7th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031. Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022
IDFC FIRST Bank

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6) & 9 (1)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) as per column (iii) that the below described immovable properties as per column (iv) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 04-Jul-2024 as described hereunder, for the recovery of amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd) from Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s) as per column (i).

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on IDFC FIRST Bank website i.e. www.idfcfirstbank.com.

S. NO	(i) Demand Notice Amount	(ii) Agreement ID	(iii) Name of Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s)	(iv) MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS	(v) Reserve Price Amount	(vi) EMD Amount	(vii) Date and Time of Auction	(viii) Date and Time of EMD Auction	(ix) Date and Time of Inspection	(x) Authorized Officer Name & Contact Number
1	INR 8697028.00/- Demand Notice dated: 15-Oct-2022	10062339128	S Santhosh & Madhu G R	All That Piece And Parcel Of Apartment / Flat Bearing No.203 On The First Floor, Admeasuring Of 1283 Sq. Ft. (Super Built Up Area) With Two Bedrooms, A Kitchen, Inclusive Of Proportionate Share In Common Areas Along With One Covered Car Parking Space., Of The Apartment Building Known As 'Advaitha' Constructed On The Property Bearing Bda No. 93/D, Present Bbmp Katha No. 93/D, Situated At 2Nd Main Road, 2Nd Stage, Industrial Suburb, Rajajinagar Industrial Layout, Banglore, And Bounded As: Set Back Set Back Passage And Ots Duct And Flat No. 202	INR 7517610.00/-	INR 751761.00/-	04-Jul-2024 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM	03-Jul-2024 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM	28-Jun-2024 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Name- Preeti Toshniwal Contact Number- 9694702013 Name- Jacob Palayoor Lazar Contact Number- 8971675091
2	INR 9338040.00/- Demand Notice dated: 01-Oct-2022	10062342245	Babulal Juharji & Anitha Devi	All That Piece And Parcel Of Flat Bearing No. 206 On The First Floor Having Super Built Up Area Of 1433 Sq. Ft. With Three Bedrooms, A Kitchen, Inclusive Of Proportionate Share In Common Areas Along With One Covered Car Parking Space, The Apartement Building Known As "Advaitha" Constructed On Property/Land Bearing Bda No. 93/D, Present Bbmp Katha No. 93/D, Situated At 2Nd Main Road, 2Nd Stage, Industrial Suburb, Rajajinagar Industrial Layout, Bangalore, And, Bounded As:-Boundaries Of The Said Flat:-East: Passage & Ots, West: Set Back, North: Duct & Flat No. 205 & South: Duct & Flat No. 204/Boundaries Of The Property/Land:-East: Road West: Private Property & North: Site No. 93/E South: Site No. 93/C	INR 8368110.00/-	INR 836811.00/-	04-Jul-2024 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM	03-Jul-2024 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM	28-Jun-2024 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Name- Neha Rao Contact Number- 9620788891 Name- Jacob Palayoor Lazar Contact Number- 8971675091

Disclaimer: Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale of the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd)

Date: 17.06.2024

TACKLE THE BULLY

Those subjected to cyberbullying should put an end to it by blocking the perpetrator and reporting the harassment

RAKSHITH GOWDA & RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

FROM a stray comment or emoji to over-the-line teasing message about someone's personality, behaviour in virtual space can have disastrous consequences when it turns into cyberbullying, at times pushing someone to commit murder or tragically, end their own life after a relentless 'trial-by-social media' experience.

Kannada actor Darshan was arrested over allegations of involvement in the murder of a fan, reportedly triggered by online harassment or cyberbullying directed at one of Darshan's close friends, Pavithra Gowda.

After the case came to light, Darshan's 15-year-old son was cyberbullied and unfairly drawn into the situation. After continuous cyberbullying and hateful comments by trolls, the youngster took to social media and posted, "Thank you for all for the bad comments and not considering that I am a 15-year-old with feelings, and even during this hard time when my mom and dad required support cursing at me won't change that you everyone (sic)."

Internet and social media platforms which are known for 'anonymity and privacy' unknowingly become the base for bullying as they allow the bully to engage in an increased degree of cruelty that would not occur if their identity was known. In such situations, victims often find themselves unable to escape abuse and harassment.

Unlike real-life encounters, online bullying persists without a break as the internet never truly shuts down, leading to torment for the victim. Experts suggest that 'repetition' is a defining feature of cyberbullying, which encompasses repeated actions by the bully, and the continuous nature of shared content on the internet. This longevity is particularly notable when personal information or photos are shared, perpetuating the harm caused.

Another prominent characteristic of bullying is the presence of a 'power imbalance' between the victim and the bully. This disparity can stem from factors such as the bully's higher status, wealth, popularity or talent.

Speaking of the patterns, experts say that cyberbullying is often intense and persistent, leaving the victim with limited ability to halt the harassment. Bullies typically aim to cause harm through their actions online. However, with a growing social media presence where public opinion is of utmost importance to the users or victims, bullying can also occur 'unintentionally' if a victim perceives the actions as harmful.

BIG PICTURE

WHY DO PEOPLE BULLY

With each incident, a recurring question emerges: What motivates bullying? Is it a manifestation of psychopathic tendencies or sadistic behaviour? Perhaps it stems from anger, jealousy or a desire for revenge. Alternatively, could it simply be the consequences of boredom taken to extreme measures?

Experts believe that some individuals participate in cyberbullying out of boredom or a desire to experiment with different personas online. This behaviour is often observed more frequently among young adults or teenagers who are in the process of shaping their identities. Such cyberbullying incidents typically involve anonymity.

People can sometimes transition into cyberbullies themselves after being victims of cyberbullying. This behaviour stems from a desire for control, or a need to retaliate against their initial tormentors. People then perceive the world as a binary choice between being a bully or being bullied.

The misuse of the internet also allows individuals to bully others online while maintaining complete anonymity, a capability not present in traditional bullying. Moreover, online bullying can be non-confrontationist, especially when done anonymously, enabling cyberbullies to post hurtful comments and then avoid engaging with any responses.

Cyberbullies might also be individuals experiencing isolation or loneliness within society. Feeling neglected by others, they may resort to lashing out to garner attention or vent their frustrations.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

TYPES OF CYBERBULLYING

Flaming or roasting: Using inflammatory language to provoke reactions

Outing: Publicly revealing personal or embarrassing information about someone online, often on a large scale rather than privately

Trolling: Posting provocative content or comments to incite chaos and division, enjoying the ensuing turmoil without personal involvement

Name calling: Using offensive language to insult others

False rumours: Fabricating stories about individuals and disseminating them online

Explicit images or messages: Sending unsolicited explicit content to victims without consent

Cyberstalking/ harassing/ physical threats: Repeatedly targeting individuals with online stalking, harassment or threat of physical harm

HOW TO HANDLE CYBERBULLYING

1. Change your privacy settings to limit who can contact you and see your content
2. Take screenshot or save message of harassment as evidence
3. Report to nearest police station or contact cyber helpline number 1098
4. Use social media platform tools to report account or fake account
5. Block the bully to prevent further contact

ANONYMITY AND FAKE IDENTITIES

Defining anonymity and concealed identity as one of the most distressing aspects of cyberbullying, Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) Chandragupta said the intimidation begins when individuals who know each other start bullying one another online using fake accounts. These actions can inflict severe emotional harm on the victims, sometimes driving them to take extreme measures.

Pointing out a common observation, he said that cyberbullying is mostly carried out using fake accounts on social media, with some perpetrators using Virtual Private Network (VPN) and privacy applications to conceal their identities, assuming that through this, they will not be traced.

IMPACT AND REPORT

Apart from seeking anonymity and privacy, many people, especially the younger generation, engage in cyberbullying out of curiosity to experience 'how it feels', Dr Manoj Kumar Sharma, Professor of Clinical Psychology and Coordinator of SHUT (Service for Healthy Use of Technology) clinic, at NIMHANS said. Cyberbullies believe that anonymity will protect them and ensure that their identities remain hidden, he added.

Dr Sharma emphasised that such incidents must be discussed and reported, and victims should know where to seek help and how to report abuse. These incidents can severely undermine an individual's self-confidence, leading them to question "Why me?" which can have a lifelong impact.

PAST INCIDENTS

MAY 2024
A techie in Chennai took her own life after she was shamed for 'carelessness' when her eight-month-old baby accidentally slipped from her hands and fell on another apartment floor

NOV 2023
A 16-year-old teen died by suicide after relentless cyberbullying he faced due to his queer identity in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

MAY 2023
A 26-year-old woman died in Kottayam, Kerala, following cyberbullying by her close male friend, who released online personal chats between the two

Cong hiked fuel prices as revenge for poll debacle: Ashoka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

HITTING out at the state government for increasing petrol and diesel prices in Karnataka, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka claimed that the Congress-led dispensation is taking revenge on the people for defeating the party in the recent Lok Sabha polls.

LoP R Ashoka addresses a press meet in Vidhana Soudha on Sunday | EXPRESS

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Ashoka said that in the last one year, the Siddaramaiah government has given "price rise bhagyas" to the people. The government has increased prices of milk, stamp duty, electricity, guidance value, liquor, and now, fuel. "During the previous BJP government, when fuel became costlier by just Re 1, the present CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar had protested, but now their own government has increased fuel prices by Rs 3," he said.

Further, Ashoka said the state government has allotted Rs 55,000 crore for its guarantee schemes, resulting in non-payment of salaries to employees. "By increasing fuel prices, the government is aiming to collect Rs 4,000 crore," he alleged. This hike will in turn increase prices of logistics, transportation, and of essential produce like fruits, vegetables and even milk.

Ashoka alleged that the Congress, which could not even touch double-digits in Karnataka and 100 in the country, in the LS polls, is taking its revenge. The fuel price increase in Karnataka is as per instructions from senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he claimed, demanding, "When we were in power, we had decreased the same by Rs 7 per litre. The present government should take back its order of increasing petrol and diesel prices by Rs 3."

Ashoka also said that in order to mobilise funds for its schemes, the Congress is even selling state government properties, and has geared up to sell BBMP, BDA and BWSSB properties. "They might mortgage Vidhana Soudha too," he alleged.

The LoP added that the state government is also not implementing the Seventh Pay Commission. Even Congress MLAs are upset with the fuel price increase, he said.

In Hassan, BJP state president BY Vijayendra stated that the state government is facing financial crunch, with the revenue generated by the different sectors being diverted to fund the Congress' guarantee schemes.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka BJP leaders have decided to organise a protest on Monday, opposing the state government's move to increase fuel prices in the state. The protest will be organised at Freedom Park in Bengaluru, and in other parts of the state.

The reduction in petrol and diesel taxes was not influenced by electoral considerations, but aimed at balancing the rates in comparison to other states

Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah unveils a statue of Sangolli Rayanna in Inchageri village of Vijayapura district on Sunday | EXPRESS

Hike unrelated to elections, says CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayapura

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday stated that the increase in petrol and diesel prices is unrelated to the outcome of the elections.

Speaking to the media in Inchageri village of Vijayapura district on Sunday, before participating in the inauguration of a new temple dedicated to Madhavananda Swamy and unveiling of a statue of Sangolli Rayanna, the CM dismissed allegations of Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka that the government's move is retaliation to Congress' performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka.

"In a democracy, there are victories and defeats," the CM said, responding to questions about the electoral implications on the fuel price hike.

He acknowledged that the Congress had not achieved the anticipated results in the recent elections in Karnataka. He, however, said the BJP's seats declined from 25 to 19, while the Congress secured nine seats, compared to just one seat in the 2019 polls.

Clarifying the state's tax structure on fuel, Siddaramaiah noted that reductions were made since April 2021, bringing down petrol taxes from 35% to 25.92%, and diesel taxes to 14.34%. He pointed out that despite the recent hike, Karnataka's fuel prices remain lower than neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Maharashtra.

"The reduction in petrol and diesel taxes was not influenced by electoral considerations, but aimed at balancing the rates in comparison to other states," Siddaramaiah emphasised, countering claims that the adjustments were politically motivated.

Addressing recent criticism within the Congress regarding its ambitious five guarantees, Siddaramaiah reaffirmed that these measures are implemented for the welfare of the poor, and not as election strategies. He dismissed rumours of any halt in grant programmes, asserting their continuation for public good.

PARTY TIME

BJP MPs hope to capitalise on alliance for BBMP, ZP/TP polls

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru:

TASTING the success of its alliance with the JDS in the Lok Sabha polls, BJP MPs, especially in Old Mysuru region, have been showing their eagerness to keep up the momentum in the forthcoming BBMP and ZP/TP polls too.

They appeared impressed with the conversion of JDS votes in their favour in semi-urban and rural areas, which was evident in the LS poll results.

Union Minister of State for MSMEs Shobha Karandlaje, a Vokkaliga leader, on Sunday said the alliance in BBMP polls will help both parties. The alliance had worked for her in Bengaluru North LS constituency as JDS party workers backed her to the hilt, resulting in a comfortable victory. Leaders from both parties had felicitated her, giving a hint that they could continue to work in tandem in future.

Union Minister of State for Railways and Jalshakti V Somanna, who hails from the Veerashaiva Lingayat community, is also eager to continue the alliance as he has been on good terms with JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda and Union Heavy Industries Minister HD Kumaraswamy. In many of the LS seats in Old Mysuru region, Gowda and Kumaraswamy had their say even in the selection of BJP candidates, including V Somanna. Hence, the latter would be accommodative of the JDS in the region during future polls, including BBMP and ZP/TP, observed political pundits.

"You have shown what BJP and JDS can do together. If this work was done in Kalyan Karnataka, Kittur Karnataka and Central Karnataka, Congress would have won only two seats," Somanna remarked at a programme where he was felicitated by workers of both parties in Tumakuru on Sunday.

While MPs are agreeable to continuation of the alliance, some leaders within the BJP have started feeling alienated as they may not have their say in future endeavours of the party, a source informed TNIE. "With BJP national leaders and MPs, who won by virtue of the alliance, going strength by strength along with the JDS state leadership, there will be less scope for the rest of the leaders. This includes Vokkaliga leaders within the BJP, like party state chief BY Vijayendra and former CM BS Yediyurappa, especially in Old Mysuru region, which is a Vokkaliga bastion and JDS stronghold," observed a political analyst.

Union Minister of State for MSMEs Shobha Karandlaje being received by BJP and JDS workers in T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru, on Sunday | EXPRESS

Muniraju raises allegations of '8% DKS tax'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AFTER the recent resignation of ST Welfare Minister B Nagendra, following allegations of illegal transfer of funds to corporates, there are fresh allegations against the government.

Speaking in Bengaluru on Sunday, Dasarahalli BJP MLA S Muniraju alleged that there is an "8 per cent DKS tax", a euphemism for a bribe imposed on essential infrastructure works. "If 18 per cent is GST, 2 per cent is cess, 2 per cent is tax and 8 per cent DKS tax, what would be left for development out of a grant of Rs 75 lakh?" he had remarked at an event to felicitate Bangalore North BJP MP Shobha Karandlaje, who won by a big margin over Congress candidate Prof Rajeev Gowda.

TAX

Law and order failure

These allegations come about eight months after Congress turncoat and Rajarajeshwarinagar MLA N Munirathna had alleged that grants and development funds to the tune of about Rs 126 crore had been cut from his constituency fund and given to other constituencies. It may be recalled that he had sat in protest at the Gandhi Statue over this issue, and later met Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. Although he had not made any serious comments about corruption per se, there had been murmurs about graft pertaining to this grant from BJP quarters.

Asked about the '8 per cent DKS tax', MP Shobha Karandlaje told *The New Indian Express* that she "would not like to comment about it". "But yes, the Congress government in the state is corrupt, and law and order has failed," she said.

FIR against journalist for fake news on Rahul

BENGALURU: The Karnataka Congress unit has lodged a police complaint against journalist and YouTuber **Ajeet Bharti**, accusing him of alleging that Congress MP Rahul Gandhi intended to replace the Ram Temple with the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. Police said that BK Bopanna, an advocate and secretary of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) legal cell, filed a complaint on Saturday, alleging that Bharti had uploaded a video on X on June 13, making false claims that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was planning to resurrect the Babri Masjid in place of the Ram Temple. The statement disseminated false information with the intent to provoke dissent and hatred among various religious groups, and aimed to disturb public peace and incite disorder through false and inflammatory speeches, the complainant alleged. Based on his complaint, High Grounds police registered an FIR against Bharti under Sections 153A (enmity between different groups) and 505(2) (statements promoting or creating enmity) of the IPC. **ENS**

Two brothers allegedly died by suicide by jumping from the ILTD Flyover in Rajamahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh, on Sunday. The deceased were identified as M Naganjaneya (42) and M Durgarao (40), both unmarried and used to reside at Sai Krishna Nagar. They were said to be mentally ill and avoided social interactions

1,419 GOVT SCHOOLS TO START BILINGUAL EDUCATION

Edu dept takes note of poor show in SSLC; Academic year kicks off

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

TAKING note of the poor performance of Kannada and other language medium schools in SSLC exams, and their dwindling numbers in the state, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) recently passed an order to start bilingual education – in English and Kannada. The department had invited applications for beginning bilingual classes from schools and received 1,800 applications, of which 1,419 government schools have been given the nod post scrutiny under certain criteria. The Congress government, too, had promoted bilingual schools in its budget and set a target of 2,000 schools for this academic year; however, that could not be met.

The highest number of government schools allowed to teach in the English language is in Kalyan Karnataka (Kalaburagi division) region, with 872 schools in seven districts, followed by Bengaluru division with 297 schools, Mysuru division with 140 schools and Dharwad division with 110 schools.

The academic year 2024-25 began on May 29; however, the order was passed only on June 15. Officials cited the model code of conduct for the delay. Education Commissioner BB Cauvery told *TNIE*, "The academic year has just commenced and there is time till the end of the month for new admissions. Despite the official order delay, all schools are ready for these classes, as the proposals came from their side and we have approved only those that have the necessary infrastructure." She added that in terms of teachers, guest lecturers will be given priority in bilingual schools.

On the high number of approvals for Kalyan Karnataka region, the Commissioner said the Akshara Avishkara scheme that aims to improve the performance of primary and high schools in the region, pushed more schools to meet the criteria. "Also, the ratio of students enrolling in government schools in this region is high, prompting conducive intervention from the state government," she said.

Earlier, the department had directed the Regional Institute of English, South India, and Department of State Educational Research and Training to prepare an action plan for teacher training. A detailed report on the introduction of English medium classes in government primary schools was sought. Since 2019-20, there are 2,404 bilingual schools in the state.

Officials in the department, on assurance of anonymity, also said that parents are keen to enrol their children in bilingual schools, which has increased the ratio. "At the field level, we are seeing increased interest in parents wanting their children to learn English from a young age. The department received many proposals but was rejected because of lack of infrastructure," the official said.

Despite the official order delay, all schools are ready for these classes, as the proposals came from their side and we have approved only those that have the infrastructure — BB Cauvery, Education Commissioner

Udupi SSLC students to get videos of classes via email

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Udupi

IN an unique initiative, apart from their usual classes, SSLC students in Udupi district will also receive their lessons via email. Launched by the Department of School Education and Literacy, through this initiative, Udupi district aims to ensure continuity of education even after class hours and on holidays. The plan was devised to make sure that the district retains its top position in SSLC ranking for the academic year 2024-25.

Sources from the department told TNIE that the initiative was primarily driven by the need of some introvert students who are not so expressive and hesitate to clarify their doubts in the classroom. ''Subject experts serving as teachers in various schools across the district were handpicked by the respective block education officers (BEOs) and their video classes were recorded at a studio at the District Resource Centre near the DC's office in Rajathadri, Manipal. The videos will now be sent to the students mail ids. Students who could not understand the lessons and concepts at one ago during the class hours can watch the videos at home and during holidays. This is a support system that will also help in achieving good results in the SSLC exam," an official from the education department told TNIE.

Dr Ashok Kamath, vice-principal of District Institution of Education and Training, Udupi, said, "Videos of each chapter in all core subjects and languages are being prepared. Udupi Zilla Panchayat CEO Prateek Bayal has supported this plan, which will have a lasting impact on the students' learning ability."

DDPI K Ganapathy said mailed lessons offer as an alternative mode of learning for students as they are both flexible and comprehensive. He added that recording of videos by subject experts is on full swing. Those students who may have to skip some classes due to ill health can also make up for lost time by watching the videos.

Parents have largely welcomed this initiative. Tharanath, a parent, said his daughter can access study material anytime and anywhere. "The government should come up with more innovative ideas suitable for modern day education."

FESTIVAL DESIGNS

A girl getting henna applied on her hands on the eve of Bakrid, in Kozhikode on Sunday | EGOKUL

Medak communal violence: 9 BJP leaders among 13 nabbed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Medak

A day after communal violence in Medak over the alleged transportation of cows for slaughter, police on Sunday said they had arrested 13 persons, including nine BJP workers and four people belonging to a particular community in connection with the disturbances on Saturday. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Rajesh indicated that more arrests could be made as investigations continue.

The arrested included Medak district BJP president G Srinivas, BJP Medak town president M Nayam Prasad and BJYM district president Sateesh.

A total bandh was observed in Medak on Sunday after a call by the BJP and its affiliates to protest against Saturday's incident. Medak witnessed heightened tension on Sunday. Commercial establishments, petrol stations, hotels, cinema halls and small shops were closed after the BJP's bandh call. The police have implemented strict security measures to prevent any further incidents.

With Bakrid falling on Monday, the police have made stringent security arrangements to prevent the situation from escalating. In response to the disturbances, IGP Ranganath held a peace committee meeting in Medak on Sunday, inviting representatives of all political parties. He advised them to bring any issues to the attention of the police instead of resorting to violence.

Sources said that the police are currently searching for a man who attacked a youth from another community with a knife last night. Locals believe that the clash on Saturday was a result of the police's failure to contain the tensions. For several days, BJP leaders and affiliates had been urging strict action against alleged cow slaughter.

On Saturday, BJP and Bajrang Dal activists found cows in Jambikunta and set them free. In retaliation, youths from another community attacked the activists, leading to tensions. The locals claimed that the situation worsened due to police inaction, despite knowing that Medak is a sensitive area prone to communal clashes. While the current situation in the town is calm, residents remain worried about potential violence.

New TTD EO takes charge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Tirumala

SENIOR IAS officer J Shyamala Rao took charge as the executive officer (EO) of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams in Tirumala on Sunday.

The State government had issued orders on Friday to replace AV Dharma Reddy with Shyamala Rao.

Soon after arriving in Tirumala, Rao and his wife first had darshan of Lord Varaha Swamy. Later, he headed to the Srivari temple through the Vaikuntam Queue Complex and offered prayers to Lord Venkateswara.

Former executive officer AV Dharma Reddy had handed over the charge to JEO Veerabrahmam, who handed it over to Shyamala Rao inside the temple's Ranaganayakula Mandapam. Later, priests performed Vedaseervachanam and the officials of TTD offered Prasadams and theertham to the new EO and his wife.

Speaking to media-persons after the darshan, Rao said asserted that there will be accountability and responsibility at every-level and on every decision taken and work done.

Tribal leaders thwart bid to traffic 4 girls in Nilgiris

S SENTHIL KUMAR @ Nilgiris

A bid by a group of three Keralities to lure four tribal girls in Gudalur into child labour was thwarted when community leaders, finding their activities suspicious, intercepted the trio and handed them over to the Gudalur police on Saturday. Police on Sunday arrested the two women and a man on charges of attempting to traffick four tribal children from the Srimadurai Panchayat.

The arrested have been identified as T Mubharish Lal, (33) Y Sunira Kuruniyan, a broker, and I Byrusa (37), a relative of Lal. All three are natives of Malapuram district in Kerala but Sunira was residing in Srimadurai panchayat.

According to sources, the trio arrived in the village on Saturday in a car and started canvassing parents in the area to allow them to hire their children for household labour in Kerala. A tribal girl had reportedly worked at Lal's house for three months and recently returned to the village.

"Mubharish Lal arrived in the village with a plan to take back the girl who had worked at his place earlier. Along with the two women, he also visited other houses to find more girls to do similar work. They were approaching the parents and children. They tried to convince the tribals to send four of their children with him by claiming they would provide a monthly salary of ₹5,000 for each child," said a police officer.

However, a few village leaders grew suspicious and picked a quarrel with the trio. They refused to send the children with them and instead handed over the Keralites at the Gudalur police station.

A case was registered against the trio and they were remanded in judicial custody.

Quack's aide being questioned

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE action was taken in response to a complaint filed by taluk medical officer Sanjay Siddannavar, regarding illegal child abortions being done in the clinic run by Ladkhan.

While searching the farmhouse, officials found foetuses which guided police to investigate not only the child trafficking angle but also an illegal abortion racket. Police have taken Rohit Kuppasagoudar, an assistant of Ladkhan in the clinic, into custody for interrogation.

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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/T(W&M)/MYS/EEE(O)/AE-1/24-25/1008-11 Dated: 15.06.2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL MODE ONLY)
KPTCL invites bids against **Bid Enquiry No.**: KPTCL/SEE/TWM/TLM/HTGLY/VEH/151 Dated: 15.06.2024. for Providing hired Vehicle service, Tempo Travelers (14+1) seater along with driver for TL&SS Hootgally Division, TLI section-1, Mysuru for maintenance of transmission lines.
The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. on or after 19.06.2024.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec.),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, 1st Floor, 'Prasarana Bhavana', N.R.Mohalla, Mysuru-570 007. Phone: 0821-2455018

Kempegowda INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BENGALURU
Name and Address of the entity seeking Proposal:
BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
BIAL Project Office, Kempegowda International Airport, Devanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 300
Web: www.bengaluruairport.com
NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

S.No.	Tender Title	Short description of Scope of Work
1	CONSTRUCTION OF STRUCTURES - ELEVATED WESTERN CROSSFIELD TAXIWAYS	Engineering coordination, procurement and construction of structures with pre-stressed concrete elements, underpasses, approach ramps, retaining walls as per Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) specifications including utilities, enabling and associated works.

Pre Qualification Criteria & other Information: Available on BIAL website **www.bengaluruairport.com** under Tenders section.
Submission Due Date & Time for all the above: 1st July 2024 at IST 17:00 Hours.
Note: Any Further Addendums to this EOI shall be made available in BIAL website.
Applicants who are interested shall express their interest through E–Mail: **projecttenders@bialairport.com.** To submit EOI, register and login to BIAL E-Tendering website (**https://www.bialtenders.com**) **event ID: 2941.**
Name and address of the entity seeking EOI:
Vice President – Procurement & Contracts
Bangalore International Airport Ltd.,
BIAL Project Office,
Kempegowda International Airport,
Devanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 300
Email: projecttenders@bialairport.com
Phone No: 080 – 66782431
www.bengaluruairport.com

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru- 560 001
Ph : 080-2558 6520 / 2558 9112 Fax : 080-2558 6321
Email: contact@kspcb.gov.in Website : https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in
No:PCB/282/SEO/MINES/EPH/2024-25/1118 Dated:14.06.2024
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
M/s. S.V. Granites has proposed to undertake Grey Granite Quarry project of maximum production of 25,602 TPA in the total land Area of 23.15 Acres at Sy.Nos.25/*/1, 25/*/2, 25/*/3, 26/*/1,26/*/2, 26/*/3 & 26/*/4 of Gowral Village, Kuknoor Taluk, Koppal District, Karnataka. This project proposal falls under cluster effect as per Office Memorandum issued by MoEF&CC, GoI vide No.F. No.L-11011/175/2018-IA-II(M) dated:12.12.2018.
As Per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated: 14.09.2006 and Amendment dated:01.12.2009, the project proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority and is required to go through the process of Environmental Public Hearing. As per the Terms of Reference letter (ToR) No.SEIAA 288 MIN 2023 dated: 07.09.2023 issued by the SEIAA, Karnataka and request letter of the project proponent dated:22.03.2024and Regional Officer, Koppal letter dated:05.06.2024 intimating the date, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the KSPCB.
The details of the project are as follows:

1.	**Name & Address of the proposed Project : M/s. S. V. Granites, Sri. K. Raghavendra Hitnal Partner, M. B. 408, At & Post Hitnal Taluk, Koppal District.**
2.	**Location of the proposed Quarry Project:** Sy. Nos. 25/*/1, 25/*/2, 25/*/3, 26/*/1, 26/*/2, 26/*/3 & 26/*/4 of Gowral Village, Kuknoor Taluk, Koppal District, Karnataka.
3.	**Details of proposed project:** Proposed to undertake Grey Granite Quarry project of maximum production of 25,602 TPA in the total land Area of 23.15 Acres
4.	**Date, time and venue of Environmental Public Consultation: Date:19.07.2024 (Friday) Time: 11:00AM Place: Project site, M/s. S. V. Granites, Sy. Nos. 25/*/1, 25/*/2, 25/*/3, 26/*/1, 26/*/2, 26/*/3 & 26/*/4, Gowral Village, Kuknoor Taluk, Koppal District.**
5.	**Places of project documents kept for public perusal**: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Koppal District, Koppal. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Koppal District, Koppal. (c) District Industries Centre, Koppal District, Koppal. (d) Thasildar Office, Kuknoor Taluk, Koppal District, Gram Panchayath Office, GowralVillage, Kuknoor Taluk. (e) Office of the Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Koppal. (f) SEIAA Karnataka (Ecology and Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka, Room No. 709, 7th Floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bengaluru – 560 001. (g) **HELP DESK,** Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site who are likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited, within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/ E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Koppal District, Koppal). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website:**kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**
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Member Secretary
Our Motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources

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श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE
ई–निविदा सूचना सं. / e- Tender Notice No: SHAR/CMD/E/C 2487203/2024-25, SHAR/CMD/E/D 2487204/2024-25
तिथि/ Date. 11.06.2024
भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, "**1. यूजी केबलों के साथ क्रांतिक 11 केवी उपरिशीर्ष फीडरों को बदलना। "(अनुमानित लागत: ₹174.07 लाख); 2. एसएमपीसी यूनिट–2 में संचकन स्थायिकों के संचयन के लिए संचकन स्थायिक सुविधा का निर्माण। "(अनुमानित लागत: ₹43.00 लाख)** के लिए ई–निविदा के माध्यम से मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज **01.07.2024** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** पर जा सकते हैं।
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"1. Replacement of critical 11kV Overhead feeders with UG cables" (Estimated cost: ₹174.07 Lakhs); 2. Construction of casting fixtures facility for storing casting fixtures at SMPC Unit-2" (Estimated cost: ₹43.00 Lakhs)**. Tender documents can be downloaded up to **01.07.2024 , 14:30** hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.
हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / **Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR**

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383
website : www.kiadb.in, e-Mail: cdoce1@kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-03/179/2024-25 Date: 15.06.2024
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work :
Name of the work: Construction of additional 4th, 5th & Terrace Floors with completion of balance works for G+3 Floors for KIADB Multistoried Office Building, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru. **(2nd Call)**
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **03.07.2024** upto **4.30 pm.**
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-04/178/2024-25 Date: 15.06.2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Turnkey Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work :
Name of the work: Establishment, Construction and Commissioning of 600 KLD Common Effluent Treatment Plant with ZLD facilities on Turnkey Basis including operation and maintenance of entire system for 10 years at Baikampadi Industrial Area, Dakshina Kannada District.
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **18.07.2024** upto **4.30 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/407/Zen/2024-25

EDITORIAL

"The unity we desire will last only if we cultivate an yielding and charitable disposition towards one another" — Mahatma Gandhi

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

COALITION DYNAMICS COULD REFLECT IN GST COUNCIL MEET

THE next GST Council meeting, to be held on June 22, will be a crucial one. Coming after a gap of eight months, the first meeting after the NDA government returned to office also comes in the backdrop of a reduced mandate for the BJP in the Lok Sabha. The meeting is critical as it's expected to address several issues including review of GST rates on online gaming, bringing petroleum products, electricity, and real estate under GST, besides considering rate rationalisation. Conventionally, the Centre has one-third of votes in the Council while states have an upper hand, collectively holding two-thirds. This means states will have their say on policy decisions in any case. Still, some believe the Council may hit a deadlock on key issues as states sense a weaker Centre and the coalition government may mar its hand in pursuing reforms like before.

Rate rationalisation, the topmost item among all, is unlikely to see any immediate change. That's because the Group of Ministers (GoM) appointed to consider the rate restructuring is yet to finalise its recommendations. Moreover, given the recent assembly elections, the GoM itself may see a restructuring. Currently, essential and semi-essential goods constitute 70-80% of India's consumption, and attract a levy of 5-12%. The multiplicity of taxes has led to inverted tax duty classification issues leading to legal disputes; the Centre wants to reduce the current rates of 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28% into three slabs. Will this lead to a consolidation of the two slabs namely 5% and 12% or 12% and 18%? If so, analysts warn against rate tweaking as it could increase the tax burden of lower-income groups.

The other critical aspect includes petrol and diesel that are excluded from GST, but are subject to VAT, central excise duty, and central sales tax. While the Centre imposes taxes on the base rate, states determine their individual rates. It comprises a significant chunk of their tax revenues. Given states' high debt burden, particularly Andhra Pradesh, which happens to be home to the NDA's key coalition partner TDP, it will be interesting to see how the Council navigates the issue. Perhaps it can begin with low impact petroleum products such as natural gas before considering a full-fledged rollout. As the tax regime turns eight next month, reforms process shouldn't take a backseat.

THE BURDEN OF HOPE ON SURESH GOPI

SURESH Gopi's victory in the recent Lok Sabha election is not only symbolic of BJP's growth in Kerala but also underlines the burden of hope that rests on his shoulders. He is the sole BJP Lok Sabha member from Kerala and one of only two ministers representing the state in the Modi 3.0 administration. His win can be attributed to a combination of two factors – his personal appeal and the increasing support for BJP among the Kerala electorate, including among the sizeable Christian community. What's significant to note here is that while the party lost narrowly in Thiruvananthapuram -- where it has been coming second since 2014 – and came a close third in two other constituencies, its sole, and historic, victory in Thrissur was sealed with a sizeable margin (close to 75,000) and vote share (37.8%), highlighting the importance of Suresh Gopi and his success for BJP's plans in Kerala.

It's a fact that even before this election, the BJP was pinning its hopes on Suresh Gopi to open its Lok Sabha account in Kerala. And he delivered what the party desperately needed. Now, he needs to deliver as an MP and minister. The BJP has been making small gains in Kerala in successive elections but those weren't this significant. This time the BJP-led NDA polled 19.24% votes – an increase of nearly 4% in comparison to 2019. From finishing second in just one seat in 2019 to winning one and finishing second in another in 2024, the BJP's gains are impressive and it truly seems to have transformed itself from an also-ran to a winnable party. It now has the platform to catapult itself to the pole position in Kerala politics. But that can happen only if it continues to build on its gains. That could be a challenge given Kerala's unique demography and its historical reluctance to deviate from bipolar politics involving two main fronts led by the CPM and the Congress. That's where leaders like Suresh Gopi, whose popularity transcends caste, religious, and political barriers, can play a role.

Suresh Gopi's inclusion in the Union ministry should not be seen just as a reward. It's a reaffirmation of party leadership's faith in him. Having said that, it must be wary of his tendency to attract controversies. He must tread carefully and watch his words while continuing to work for the people, as he has been doing, and fulfilling his ministerial obligations. The actor must see this as an opportunity to perform as a politician and help his party in the process. The burden is huge as he carries the hope of people who elected him and the ambitions of his party.

QUICK TAKE

INCLUSIVE HOODS WELCOME

THE news that 33 Hindu residents of a housing complex in Vadodara are trying hard to push out the lone Muslim allottee just for her religion is worrying, but not surprising. Such overt and covert pushes for ghettoisation have been happening in Indian cities for long. But what's equally disheartening is the apparent silence on the issue from at least 425 other allottees in the cooperative society. It's a central government housing scheme and the 44-year-old mother allotted one flat works at an outfit under the skills ministry. Yet, old prejudices die hard. The more inclusive our neighbourhoods, the lower will be the bigotry and deeper the harmony.

What explains BJP's unexpected performance at the elections? Part of the reason could be the claims the opposition made, part the ruling regime's smugness

NARRATIVES THAT CHANGED THE POLL WIND

BALBIR PUNJ

Author of the recently published *Tryst with Ayodhya: Decolonisation of India*

SOURAV ROY

WHY didn't the BJP meet its expectations in the recent Lok Sabha elections? While Narendra Modi's opponents celebrate for apparent reasons, the results have undoubtedly left BJP supporters surprised, stunned, or both.

For many of Modi's supporters, '*Abki baar, 400 paar*' was a battle cry, a motivational prop for an ambitious target. A comfortable majority was, however, taken for granted. The 240 tally left them bewildered, scurrying for reasons responsible for this unexpected poll outcome.

While in a democracy the voter is the kingmaker, the electoral setback forced the Modi fan club to introspect. The unexpected loss was attributed to several factors, including alienation of party *karyakartas* because of their neglect by leaders, selection of bad candidates, wholesale lateral entry of outsiders to the fold, resulting in heartburn in cadres, and alleged indifference of the RSS to the election process.

Some of these reasons are valid but hardly impact the poll outcome. Were Congress and other constituents of the INDI Alliance free from these faults? Was everything hunky-dory with the BJP during the 2019 polls? In this respect, 2024 wasn't very different from 2019.

Didn't such a problem exist in states such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Tripura and Madhya Pradesh, where the party won all seats? Or in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Odisha, the states where the BJP performed equally well?

What explains the abysmal results of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal? There is something more than meets the eye. Apart from issues such as caste matrix, jobs and price rise, the opposition's deftness in building a convincing narrative gave a surprising twist to the poll outcome.

A confident Modi banked on his achievements to win a third term. But his opponents—a pack consisting of Islamists, leftists, evangelists, dynastic parties and foreign powers inimical to India—engaged him on a different turf. They successfully moved the debate from the performance of his 10 years in office to a clutch of acerbic narratives, in which they excel.

While the 2014 BJP victory was a surprise, the 2019 one shocked the pack. Modi's onslaught on poverty, war against corruption, ruthless elimination of terror, high economic growth, restoration of normalcy in Kashmir without firing a shot and India's growing stature in the comity of nations rattled them. It was clear: India was on an ascent, and the electorate wanted PM Modi to stay for long.

Apart from dynastic political parties, the narratives against Modi were set by a pack of foreign-funded NGOs, media, and academia sections rooted in the leftist lexicon. This pack, wired with global institutions, uses wokeism and time-tested toolkits to manipulate the system, influence public discourse and meet its ideological ends.

The BJP losses were directly proportional to how the insidious narratives impacted voters, which differed from state to state. Modi's performance was pitted against a manufactured perception and propaganda that spun narratives based on unfounded prejudices, unsubstantiated allegations, white lies and half-truths. The pack stoked fear in vulnerable sections of society.

The opposition narrative rested on five key points. First, the BJP would change and "end" the Constitution. Second, Modi controlled all constitutional institutions including the Election Commission. Third, the BJP was persecuting minorities. Fourth, Modi was a friend of the rich and an enemy of the poor. Fifth, Modi would finish reservations for scheduled castes and tribes.

Changing the Constitution is no big deal. The document, a cornerstone of our democracy, has been amended over 100 times since it was adopted, mainly during Congress regimes. Amending the Constitution isn't the same as finishing it.

Ending existing reservations for any section was a false alarm. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has repeatedly said reservations would continue till discrimination against weaker sections doesn't end. PM Modi, too, has spoken in the same vein many times.

The recent results have proved that the allegations against the Election Commission and questions on the credibility of electronic voting machines were part of a conspiracy to delegitimise Modi.

The rich-poor binary was baseless; the biggest beneficiaries of the Modi regime are the poor. According to the IMF, India has sharply brought down extreme poverty. Another World Bank working paper said that the number of those suffering extreme poverty in India dropped from 22.5 percent in 2011 to 10.2 percent in 2019.

When we speak of atrocities on minorities, we seem not to remember the murders of Hafizul Sheikh (West Bengal, 2024), Aijaz Ahmad Sheikh (J&K, 2024), Babar Ali (Uttar Pradesh, 2022), and Sheikh Waseem Bari (J&K, 2020). Is it because they chose to be aligned with the BJP? Did their blood matter any less for it?

The opposition narrative about saving democracy, institutions and constitution is a sham. The opposition is fighting to save political dynasties and the corrupt within its ranks. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claimed that an election victory for the opposition would result in his release from jail.

Modi's welfarism covered all 140 crore Indians without any discrimination whatsoever. Still, Muslims do have grievances against him, the way they had against the Congress during the pre-partition era. Those in doubt can refer to the Pirpur Committee report published by the Muslim League in 1938. It implied that Hindus, Hindu communalism, and the Congress were synonymous. This report was later used to argue for the partition of India.

The hard fact is that BJP-RSS were resting on their laurels too soon. Comparatively easy victories in 2014 and 2019 had turned them smug. They had won a battle, but not the war to retrieve India from a colonial narrative, a British legacy.

Narrative is a powerful instrument. It has successfully laundered the Communists of their sin of supporting the vivisection of the country based on religion and transforming them into secular icons. Rahul Gandhi, a product of dynastic politics who remote-controlled the UPA 1 and 2 governments without any accountability, is a poster boy of democracy and social justice. The ones dividing Indians on the basis of caste and mocking Hinduism carry the 'secular' moniker. That's the power of narrative—something the Modi clan didn't realise and paid heavily for.

(Views are personal)
(punjbalbir@gmail.com)

UJJAIN: THE HOLY CITY OF INTELLECTUAL ATTAINMENT

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

AN interesting place of immense significance is Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh. Time is held to have begun at Ujjain, for it was the prime meridian of the ancient world, millennia before Greenwich. The Ujjain *panchangam* or lunar calendar is still calculated here and followed by millions.

An Indian creation theory goes, "Out of nothing came all. Creation came about through life's longing for itself. Consciousness dawned and the cycle of life and death commenced. But with life was born a longing for liberation. And it was here in Ujjain that this longing found its first utterance. That is why Shiva, the Timeless Lord, chose Ujjain for his earthly abode." Ujjain, by the river Shipra, was first called 'Avantika' as it contained the *vana* or forests of healing herbs gifted to earth. But then came the ambitious titan, Tripur. He performed terrible austerities and wrenched a boon from Lord Brahma that nobody could destroy him except by one arrow when the three planets he ruled were in alignment. Secure in his power, Tripur unleashed great cruelty on the world. All creatures flocked to Lord Shiva for help. "Mercy, mercy, Great God! We seek refuge in You," they wept.

Lord Shiva assured them Tripur's end was close. Then they beheld the cosmos take on an unearthly glow. The earth became a chariot, the sun and moon its wheels. The mighty Himalayas became the bow. And on this bow, Lord Vishnu himself became the arrow. Thus, Lord Shiva destroyed the three planets with one arrow and with that, he destroyed Tripur. This feat was celebrated forevermore as '*Tripurardhan*'.

Tripur was less than a straw for Mahadev's might. Nevertheless, he let this cosmic drama take place to bestow on mankind a sense of moral victory. This outstanding victory or '*Uchhitam Vijay*' is remembered as the name 'Ujjain'.

But Ujjain's innate lustre made it a coveted prize. The next assault was by a demon called Dushan. When Lord Shiva saw Dushan advancing as *Kaal* or death on his devotees, he became '*Maha Kaal*' and destroyed Dushan with just one fiery breath. '*Maha Kaal*' means both 'the death of death' and 'time'. It is a richly layered word, also meaning 'immortality' and 'infinity'. Lord Shiva graciously agreed to abide forever in Ujjain in his form as Mahakaleshwar, the Lord of Eternity. Thus, he became a marvellous pillar of light, a Jyotirling. A naturally-manifested stone *lingam* represents this even today

A *lingam* in heaven and a *lingam* in the netherworld are believed to be in alignment with earth at Mahakaleshwar. The Mahakaleshwar Jyotirling is thus considered the centre-point of earth. Moreover, this is the foremost of the Twelve Jyotirlingas that hold up the sacred geography of India from Kedarnath to Rameswaram.

The *Panch Kos* or pilgrim circuit of Ujjain takes us through an energy field of 84 temples. When the stars are in alignment every 12 years for the Kumbh Mela, known in Ujjain as '*Simhast*' or 'Leo in the Ascendant', it is believed the constellations are represented on earth by the city's temple geography. The next *Simhast* at Ujjain is from Sunday, April 9 to Monday, May 8 in 2028.

PTI

Legend says Lord Shiva agreed to abide forever in Ujjain as Mahakaleshwar, the Lord of Eternity, after destroying demon Dushan before he descended on the city. A naturally-manifested stone *lingam* at the Mahakaleshwar temple marks this even today

Just as creation has no meaning without Nature, Shiva is incomplete without Shakti. Her presence is consecrated at the Harsiddhi Shaktipeeth temple through one of the most poignant events in Indian belief—the death of Sati. The Harsiddhi Temple at Ujjain commemorates the site where Sati's elbow is believed to have fallen.

Ujjain became known as a place of intellectual attainment. Thus, no less than Sri Krishna was sent to study here with his brother Balarama at Rishi Sandipani's gurukul. Sri Krishna grew especially attached to a meek, timid boy called Sudama, who took him a gift of poha years later. Poha is the star Indori-Ujjaini dish today, as I was charmed to discover.

In 57 BCE, King Vikramaditya of Ujjain won a famous victory over the *Sakas* or Scythians. He founded a new era to commemorate this. Ahead of the Gregorian calendar by 57 years, the Vikram Era or Vikram *Samvat* is still used as the 'Indian calendar'. Vikramaditya was a noble king who set a high standard of excellence.

Vikramaditya established a grand court at Ujjain. Mathematics, astronomy, arts and literature achieved new heights and his pick of eminent scientists and artists were collectively known as the *Navaratna* or Nine Gems. They included the great healer Dhanvantari, a master of Ayurveda and the author of an important medical treatise, and Varahamihira, the astronomer and astrologer whose fame spread to faraway kingdoms, as did the news of his specially-built observatory at Ujjain. Vetal Bhat, author of the still-popular *Vetal Pachheesi* or *Twenty-Five Tales of the Ghoul*, wrote elegant, witty stories that not only entertained but also served as lessons in character-building. Vararuchi, the great grammarian, wrote a formidable work on Prakrit grammar. The greatest was Sanskrit playwright and poet Kalidasa. Of enduring fame, author unknown, is the collection of stories called *Singhasan Batteesi* or *Thirty-Two Tales of the Throne*, about Vikramaditya.

In the third century BCE, young prince Ashoka was sent here as the governor of Ujjain. Ashoka married Princess Devi of Vidisha, and his son Prince Mahendra was born here. Ashoka went away to Pataliputra in Bihar but Queen Devi stayed on at Ujjain. When Ashoka embraced Buddhism, it was from Ujjain that he sent his son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamitra to the eastern coast and out across the sea as missionaries to Sri Lanka.

So, Ujjain is a landmark city in Indian history and culture, and well worth a visit.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Conduct census

Ref: *A to-do list for India's new ministers* (Jun 16). In the absence of a recent census, a majority of our country's population is unable to access schemes, benefits and services. Hence conducting the next census, essential for planning, should also come under the priority category for the home ministry.
N Rama Rao, Chennai

Extend concessions

Ref: *Trial test for Vande Bharat sleeper trains to start on Aug 15* (Jun 16). It is a good decision to introduce sleeper berths in Vande Bharath trains, but the railway department also has to ensure basic cleanliness in all coaches and punctuality of trains as far as possible. It should also consider the requests of senior citizens and the disabled to extend concessions in charges as there was before.
Katuru Durga Prasad Rao, Hyderabad

Good decision

One feels it is really a good decision of the AIADMK to boycott the Vijkravandi bypolls as it would by and large favour only the ruling dispensation. That said, blaming the DMK for boycotting the bypolls is a defence mechanism for the AIADMK. The party is currently crestfallen after its humiliating defeat in the Lok Sabha polls. It needs to do a lot of homework to emerge victorious in the assembly election in 2026.
S Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

Road development

The change of government in Andhra Pradesh is a welcome sight. There is an urgent need to develop the road that connects Kakinada to Rajahmundry, which also has an airport. A distance of approximately 60 km takes over two hours to complete because of the incomplete highway project.
Ravi Hegde, email

Good politician

Opposition parties can learn so much from former Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik. Even though his party suffered defeat in the assembly elections, he accepted the verdict graciously. He didn't blame EVMs or any political party. He even attended the swearing-in ceremony of the BJP ministry and congratulated the new CM. This shows he is not a petty politician.
S Ravindranath, Bengaluru

Dedicated artist

The demise of multifaceted legend Rajeev Taranath has left a void in both the music and literature world that can never be filled. It is said he practised the sarod for 18 hours at a stretch sometimes, till his fingers started bleeding.
P V Prakash, email

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Hardeep Singh Puri @HardeepSPuri
...Congress-ruled Karnataka government has saddled the people of Karnataka with the burden of paying ₹3/litre more for petrol and diesel in the state.

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
Today, a major reconfiguration of statues in the Parliament complex is being inaugurated. Clearly it is a decision taken by the ruling regime unilaterally.

Aaditya Thackeray @AUThackeray
The case of the mindhe gang candidate from North West Mumbai gets murkier, as the gaddar candidate indulges in treachery with democracy now.

Rahul calls EVM 'black box' after Musk stirs fresh row

Tesla chief calls for elimination of EVMs, says hacking risk still too high

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in India are a "black box" that nobody is allowed to scrutinise. He also asserted that "serious concerns" are being raised about transparency in the country's electoral process.

The remarks came in the wake of a statement by X and Tesla Inc CEO **Elon Musk** over the security of the EVMs. Tagging a post by Musk in which he talked about eliminating the EVMs, Gandhi posted, "Democracy ends up becoming a sham and prone to fraud when institutions lack accountability".

He also tagged a media report that claimed that a relative of Shiv Sena's candidate, who won the Lok Sabha polls from Mumbai's North West seat by 48 votes, had a phone that unlocks an EVM.

"We should eliminate electronic voting machines. The risk of being hacked by humans or Artificial Intelligence, while small, is still too high," Musk had said in his post referring to reports of irregularities in EVMs in Puerto Rico.

Echoing Gandhi's view, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also questioned the credibility of EVMs and said all future elections should be conducted through ballot papers.

In a post on X in Hindi, Yadav said, "Technology is meant to solve problems, if it becomes the cause of problems, then its use should be stopped." Targeting the BJP over the issue, he said, "Today, fears of EVM tampering are being expressed in many elections of the world and the world's renowned technology experts are openly writing about the danger of EVM tampering. Then what is the reason behind the insistence on using EVMs? BJP should clarify this." He also tagged Musk's post and reiterated his party's demand that all future elections be conducted using ballot papers.

Wading into the issue, former Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar responded, "This is a huge sweeping generalisation statement that implies no one can build secure digital hardware... Wrong. @elonmusk's view may apply to US and other places where they use regular computer platforms to build Internet-connected voting machines ... but Indian EVMs are custom-designed, secure and isolated from any network or media. Electronic voting machines can be architected and built right as India has done."

To this, Musk responded that "Anything can be hacked."

Chandrasekhar back-tracked, saying while "any level of encryption" on a computer system can be broken with sufficient power, EVM integrity was "a different type of conversation, we can agree to disagree."

The case of EVM hacking in Mumbai North West seat

A row erupted following reports of an alleged case of EVM hacking during elections in Mumbai North West LS seat, where Shiv Sena candidate Ravindra Waikar was elected by 48 votes. Waikar's brother-in-law Mangesh Pandalikar reportedly carried to the counting centre a mobile phone that could unlock an EVM. However, the returning officer for the seat said an FIR has been lodged against Dinesh Gurav, polling data operator with ECI, for using Pandalikar's phone to get the OTP.

It's for parties to decide new Speaker, I have no role in it, says Om Birla

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

WHILE all eyes are on the crucial election to select the new Lok Sabha Speaker on June 26, outgoing Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Sunday said he has no role in the decision and it was for the political parties to decide on the new Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

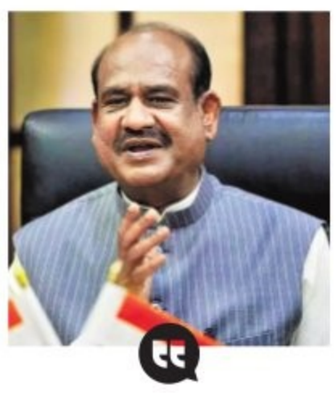
"All these decisions are taken by political parties. These decisions cannot be taken by me," said Birla. The first session of Parliament will be held from June 24 to July 4.

The election of the Speaker is seen as the first test of the NDA government after the BJP fell short of securing a majority mark of 272 seats to form the government. While speculation is rife that the BJP may keep the post for the party considering the crucial role of the Speaker, its key allies TDP and JD(U) also don't seem to be on the same page. While JD(U) says that it will support the BJP's pick for the Speaker post, the TDP maintains it will back a consensus candidate among NDA partners. Outgoing Speaker Om Birla and Andhra Pradesh BJP chief D Purandeswari are the frontrunners for the post.

Another contentious issue is the election of deputy speaker, a post that had been vacant for the last five years. With the INDIA bloc parties having an impressive number of 234 members in the new Lok Sabha, the opposition leaders are pitching for a deputy speaker.

While the outgoing 17th Lok Sabha was unprecedented in functioning without a deputy speaker, the Constitution mandates the election of the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha soon after the Speaker is elected.

Though Opposition parties made several representations to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in the 17th Lok Sabha, no action has been taken to appoint a deputy Speaker.



All these decisions are taken by political parties. These decisions cannot be taken by me

Om Birla,
Outgoing Lok Sabha Speaker

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI

The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
Follow him on X@Shahid_Faridi_

Bureaucratic Reshuffle

TOP POST MAY BE FILLED AFTER BUDGET IN JULY

Top posts in the Union government are scheduled to fall vacant in the next few months. Among them are the posts of Cabinet Secretary, Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Director of Intelligence Bureau and India's ambassador to the United States of America. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has retained his Principal Secretary, National Security Advisor and two other advisors in the PMO. According to sources, while the current IB director, Tapan Kumar Deka, may be given an extension this week as his term is ending on June 30, most of the other top appointments are likely to be made after the first full budget of Modi 3.0 administration, which is likely to be presented in July. As reported in this column earlier, Deputy National Security Advisor Vikram Misri is the front runner for the post of Foreign Secretary, while the incumbent Vinay Kwatra, whose one-year extension is ending in October, may be sent to the US as India's ambassador. India's High Commissioner in London Vikram Doraiswami is also a contender for the position in Washington. Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, who is on his third extension, has reportedly requested to be relieved on the completion of his current extension in August this year. A hunt for his successor is on. Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, also on his third extension, is due to retire in August this year. Sources said that the government may retain him either in the same post or in some other capacity.

Rising Star

KALPANA SOREN TO JOIN CHAMPAI CABINET

The newly-elected Jharkhand Mukti Morcha MLA, Kalpana Soren, is set to join the state Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Champai Soren. According to sources, Kalpana met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Delhi last week to inform him about her party's decision. The JMM and Congress are running an alliance government in Jharkhand. The state assembly elections are due later this year. In the absence of her husband Hemant Soren, who had to resign as chief minister after he was arrested in a money laundering case, Kalpana emerged as the JMM's star campaigner during the just-concluded Lok Sabha elections. She will now lead the party's campaign in the assembly elections. The swearing-in is likely to take place within a fortnight. The Congress has to find a replacement for its minister Alamgir Alam, who the ED has arrested after the recovery of ₹36 crore allegedly belonging to him.

Haryana Manoeuvres

KIRAN CHOUDHRY MAY LEAVE CONGRESS FOR BJP

The BJP is likely to field Congress MLA Kiran Choudhry for the Haryana Rajya Sabha seat vacated by Deepender Hooda. The party has been in touch with her for some time but could not decide how to accommodate her. Sources said a decision has been taken to field her in the Rajya Sabha election, which the Congress is not likely to contest as it does not have the numbers to mount a meaningful challenge. Kiran is the daughter-in-law of the late Bansi Lal and is a sitting MLA from the Tosham segment of the Bhiwani-Mahendragarh Lok Sabha constituency. While campaigning for the BJP candidate in Mahendragarh during the recent Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed Bansi Lal as Vikas Purush of Haryana. The BJP has been trying to make a dent in the Congress' Jat vote. Kiran is now likely to be part of that plan.

Railways forms panel to look into speed limit violations by train drivers

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

CONCERNED over loco pilots (train drivers) violating speed limits, the Railway Board has constituted a committee to look into such instances.

The committee is tasked with finding out the reasons that prompt the drivers to overlook the prescribed speed limits at various points. The violation of speed limits poses a serious threat to train safety.

A source in the railways cited a case of speed limit violation reported on a river bridge where the driver violated the speed restriction of 20 kmph and took the train at above 100 kmph. Since the bridge was under maintenance, it could have turned into a major accident.

Sources also cited another incident where the driver and the assistant loco pilot of the Gatiman Express, which is India's first semi-high speed train, drove at 160 kmph between Hazrat Nizamuddin in Delhi and Virangana Lakshmibai Jhansi Junction in UP.

Similarly, drivers of Malwa Express, running between Katra and Indore, had also violated the speed limits.

The board issued a circular to all zones on June 3 where it has stated that members of a committee formed to review the caution orders to drivers and train managers (guards) would interact with loco pilots via video conference to understand issues at the field level.

In a meeting on June 5, more than 180 loco pilots and loco inspectors participated. "At the virtual meeting, a plethora of suggestions and reasons were collected," said a source, adding that strict action would be taken against drivers if they are found overlooking the speed limits.

Generally, speed restrictions are imposed on the rail routes only when repairing of tracks or bridges is going on and the railway provide complete route charts to loco pilots.

An official said some drivers suggested that a train guard should remind a driver on a walkie-talkie 3 km before the starting point of the speed limits.

Citing report on inequality, Lalu says Centre skirting caste census

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

RASHTRIYA Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad on Sunday kicked up a political storm by alleging that the Centre was not in favour of conducting caste census as the OBCs, SCs and STs constitute 85% of the country's population.

Sharing World Inequality Lab's report, Lalu said that OBCs' share in the national wealth had declined from 17.3% in 2013 to 9% in 2022. He alleged that the number of small and middle-sized businesses were also on the continuous decline as the farmers' condition was deplorable due to the Centre's wrong policies.

"Since nearly 85% of the population in the country are OBCs, SCs and STs, BJP does not want to conduct caste census as the dominance of affluent people in every sector would be exposed," he added.

Sharing the report in X, the RJD chief said, "The research has revealed frightening statistics for the backward/Dalits and tribals. This research highlights the growing socio-economic inequality in the country.

According to this report, upper castes have 88.4% of the total wealth of the country, while OBCs have only 9 per cent and Scheduled Castes and Tribes have only 2.6%. In 2013, OBCs' share of the country's wealth was 17.3%, which has come down to only 9% in 2022. Agriculture is becoming a loss-making deal. Farmers are getting ruined due to wrong policies of the government."

The RJD chief further said that for 10 years, the Modi government has been targeting and destroying small businesses of the OBC, SC and ST classes. As long as OBCs, SCs, STs and the poor upper caste people consider the BJP's Bhakti, fanaticism and hate-mongering rioters as their leaders, these figures will only get worse.

Share of wealth

RJD supremo Lalu Prasad took to microblogging site X to quote a World Inequality Lab report, which said that upper castes have 88.4% of the total wealth of the country, while OBCs have only 9% and Scheduled Castes and Tribes have only 2.6%. In 2013, OBCs' share of the country's wealth was 17.3%, which has come down to only 9% in 2022, he said.

The Bihar government conducted a caste-based survey in the state on its own.

According to the survey report, EBCs alone accounted for 36% of the state's total population. If EBCs are clubbed with OBCs, their population accounted for 63.13% of the state's population, he added.

The state government later raised the reservation quota from 50% to 65% in government jobs and educational institutions based on the caste based survey report. In addition, 10% reservation is meant for EWS (economic weaker sections).

The demand for representation on the basis of population is slowly gaining momentum in Bihar, Lalu stated.

INDIA bloc will support TDP's Speaker candidate, says Sena's Sanjay Raut

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

SHIV Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday said the INDIA bloc will support the Telugu Desam Party if it fields its candidate for the Lok Sabha Speaker. Election to the post of the LS Speaker is slated for June 26.

Talking to reporters, Raut claimed the TDP wants to field its candidate. "If that happens, INDIA bloc partners will discuss the issue and try to ensure that all the INDIA alliance partners extend support to the TDP," he said.

Raut added that if the BJP gets the Speaker's post, it will break the TDP, JD(U), and the outfits of Chirag Paswan and Jayant Chaudhary. "We have the experience that BJP betrays the people who support it," Raut said.

TDP spokesperson K Rammohan Rao told this newspaper that the NDA partners will sit together and decide the candidate, adding that there are no cracks in the alliance and it is stable. "All the partners of the NDA will have a meeting and a consensus candidate will be decided. Our leaders will take a call," said Rao. However, the TDP leader was noncommittal whether the TDP sought the Speaker's post. "Whether we claimed the post or not, I can't say," he said.

"As partners, we support the decisions taken by the NDA government and vice versa," he added.

The TDP's position is at odds with the JD(U), which pledged to support the candidate nominated by the BJP. Speaking to this paper, JD(U) leader K C Tyagi said that by convention, the ruling party has the right to nominate the Speaker because its number is also the highest. "The statement by INDIA bloc leaders is intended to create confusion among the NDA partners," said Tyagi.

FUNDING

RBI urged to consider climate in big projects

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

CIVIL society organisations have urged the RBI to factor in climate and social considerations in the project finance framework, saying huge funds have gone waste for not considering environmental challenges in big projects.

The organisations call for integrating climate risk assessments and sustainable practices into the project finance framework. "This integration is crucial for mitigating long-term environmental impacts and ensuring that financed projects do not adversely affect vulnerable communities," said Amitanshu Verma of the Centre for Financial Accountability (CFA). "Project finance in India should not only be economically viable but also socially equitable and environmentally sustainable," he said.

Thirteen organisations responded to RBI's recent draft framework related to projects.

Sluggish monsoon leaves north and east India dry

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

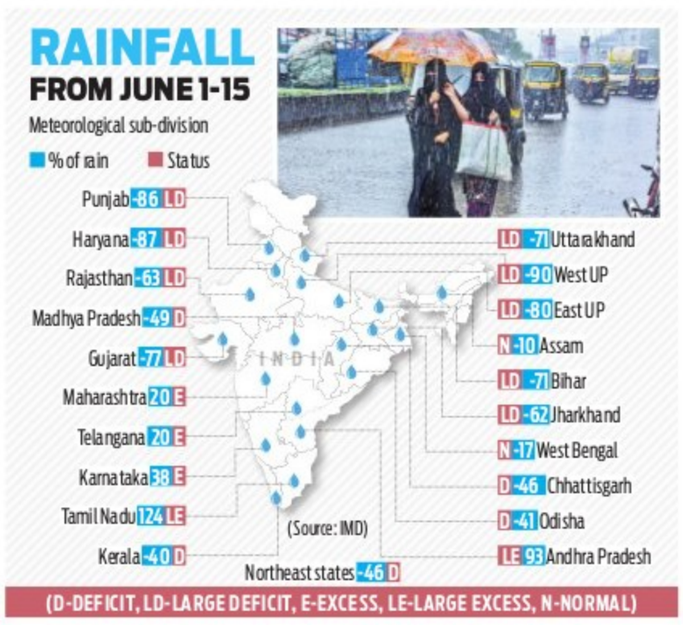
SINCE the arrival of the southwest monsoon on May 30, major parts of the country have recorded deficient rainfall in the past two weeks, weather department data shows.

North and east India continues to reel under heatwaves with temperature ranging between 44-48 °C. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said severe heatwave conditions are likely to continue over many parts of north India during the next three days.

During June 1-15, except the southern peninsula, the rest of the country experienced monsoon rainfall deficit ranging from -40% to -90%. Kerala, country's monsoon gateway, has also been deficient in monsoon rain so far.

The Northeast is also facing severe deficient rain though the monsoon reached Kerala coast and the region at the same time after many years.

Eastern Uttar Pradesh has registered -80% deficient rainfall followed by Bihar (-71%), Jharkhand (-62%) and Odisha (-41%). In West Bengal (-17%) and Assam (-10%), rainfall is so far under the normal category.



In north, major deficient rainfall was reported from Punjab (-86%), Haryana (87%), western UP (-90%) and Rajasthan (63%). In central India, except Maharashtra, states like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh saw deficient rainfall.

In southern India, except Kerala, other states, such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, received normal to above normal rainfall in the past two weeks.

Meanwhile, the IMD has said the southwest monsoon would reactivate after 19 June.

"Conditions are favourable for further advance of southwest monsoon into some more parts of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh and northwest Bay of Bengal, some parts of Gangetic West Bengal, remaining parts of sub-Himalayan West Bengal and some parts of Bihar in next 4-5 days," said IMD.

This year, monsoon onset happened two days earlier than the usual date of June 1. But soon after the first week, it started dissipating. Earlier, the IMD had forecast above normal monsoon, which would be 106% of long period average. Experts say monsoon will be back in July to cover up the deficit.

Severe heat wave conditions are observed in most parts in Punjab, Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, north Rajasthan and east Madhya Pradesh. Severe heatwaves were observed in Himalayan states such as Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which recorded temperatures 4-8°C above normal.

NAXAL BOUNTY

Six of the eight Naxalites killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Saturday were senior rank cadres and carried cumulative cash rewards of ₹48 lakh, police said.

1 KILLED | 4 HURT, IN A BUS-AUTORICKSHAW COLLISION

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27	Mumbai	35	29
Bhopal	43	28	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	41	30	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	40	23	Lucknow	42	27
Chennai	39	30	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	36	26	Imphal	23	18
Srinagar	18	08	Chandigarh	42	23

Jammu forests new terror hubs

65 people, including 36 security personnel, killed in Jammu region in over 30 months

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

MILITANTS have been making concerted efforts from the last few years to shift their sphere of influence and activities beyond Kashmir to Jammu region. At least 65 persons, including 36 security men and 19 civilians have been killed in militant attacks and encounters in the Jammu region in last two and a half years.

The four militant attacks including attack on a pilgrim bus within span of four days in Jammu region last week is not a new phenomenon.

The militants have been making concerted effort to shift militancy beyond Kashmir and increase their sphere of influence in Jammu region comprising 10 districts.

They have carried out a series of attacks on security forces, especially the army in twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch. After carrying out the attacks and causing casualties among the security force personnel, the militants take refuge in the dense forest areas.

The dense forest areas of twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch have emerged as a new spot of militancy in J&K. The militants are using treacherous mountains and forests to hide themselves and their weapons. They are using the natural caves in the forest areas as their safe hide-outs and plan their attacks from these supposed safe havens.

According to statistics, 36 security men, mostly army men, have been killed in militant attacks in the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri. Among the dead also include an IAF corporal and Village Defence Guard (VDG) member.

The VDGs were activated by the government after the rise in militant attacks in Poonch and Rajouri.

They act as eyes and ears of security forces and also conduct patrolling in their respective areas to keep watch on the movement of the militants.

Nineteen civilians have been killed in militant attacks in the Jammu region in last two and a half years.

Among them seven civilians were killed by militants on January 1, 2023 in Dangri village of Rajouri districts. Nine persons were killed when militants attacked a pilgrim bus in Reasi district of Jammu province on June 9. 43 pilgrims were also injured in the militant attack due to which the pilgrim bus fell into a gorge.

Ten militants, mostly Pakistani nationals, were killed in encounters with security forces in the Jammu region in the last two and a half years.

Among them two were killed recently in an encounter with security forces in a village in Hira Nagar area of border district of Kathua.

Former J&K police chief S P Vaid said security forces should formulate an action plan by involving the locals to track down and eliminate the militants' active in the Jammu region.

"It is very important to eliminate these militants. That should be the top most priority of the security forces," he said. According to Vaid, militants are using the communication system that is not being tracked down.

"They are communicating using internet based systems. The security agencies should develop human intelligence and track down these Pakistani militants. How will militants survive without food and water. The local police, locals, VDGs should be included by security agencies to eliminate these militants".

IN CROSSHAIRS

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS, 36 SECURITY MEN, MOSTLY ARMY MEN, HAVE BEEN KILLED IN MILITANT ATTACKS IN THE TWIN DISTRICTS OF POONCH AND RAJOURI

9 persons were killed when militants attacked a pilgrim bus in Reasi of Jammu province on June 9

10 militants, mostly Pakistani nationals, were killed in encounters with security forces in Jammu in the last two and a half years

Militants have carried out a series of attacks on security forces, especially the Army in twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch

NINETEEN

civilians have been killed in militant attacks in Jammu in last two and a half years. Among them seven civilians were killed by militants on January 1, 2023 in Dangri

Landslides wreak havoc in Sikkim; tourists stranded

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

OVER 1,500 tourists, including 15 foreigners, have remained stranded in Sikkim for the past few days as the rains and landslides have snapped road connectivity at many places. The tourists are stranded mostly at Mangan, Chungthang and Lachung in the Mangan district.

According to official sources, the state government had plans to evacuate the stranded people by using helicopters from Sunday. The choppers, however, could not take off due to inclement weather.

The government is expecting that the weather conditions will improve on Monday. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), however, predicted light to moderate rainfall in the next 48 to 72 hours. The IMD also predicted cloud cover over isolated places.

The government has not been able to use the roads for evacuation as they were blocked by landslides at multiple places. The landslides occurred mostly in areas beyond the state capital Gangtok leading up to the Mangan district.

At Chungthang, the tourists are stranded in hotels and at a gurdwara. Panic has set in among them.

"Many of us are stranded here. We are not getting any updates on evacuation. Internet is down. Mobile phone connectivity is also very poor," a tourist taking refuge at the gurdwara told a news channel.

"Please rescue us as soon as possible. Our biggest problem is cash. No cash is left with most of us. ATMs are down. Internet banking is not possible," another tourist said.

According to a government statement, around 1,215 tourists, including the 15 foreigners, are stranded in the Lachung town. The statement said the state's tourism and civil aviation minister Tshering Thendup Bhutia would coordinate the efforts for evacuation.

BHOPAL DIARY

ANURAAG SINGH
Our correspondent in Madhya Pradesh
singhanuraag.jaurno@gmail.com

Cong deputes Digvijaya Singh's son in Budhni

In 2003, the then CM Digvijaya Singh retained his home assembly seat Raghogarh for the fourth time, defeating BJP's then Vidisha MP Shivraj Singh Chouhan by 21,000-plus votes. It remains the only major poll defeat for Chouhan till date. Two decades later, the Congress has appointed Singh's third-time Raghogarh MLA son Jaivardhan Singh as in-charge of affairs to win back Chouhan's pocket-borough Budhni assembly seat, which will fall vacant after the newly sworn in agriculture minister quits from the Vidhan Sabha. Budhni, which has been won by Chouhan six times, was last won by the Congress in 1998.

Who'll succeed Scindia in Rajya Sabha?

With one RS seat from the state falling vacant after the 5.40 lakh votes-won by union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia from Guna LS seat, it now remains to be seen who'll be sent by the ruling party to the upper house of the parliament for the next two years. In case the party prefers to send someone from MP's politics, then Dr KP Yadav (who defeated Scindia in 2019 LS polls, but was denied the party ticket from Guna seat in 2024) remains a strong prospect. Known to spring surprises, the BJP leadership may well opt for any of the new union ministers for being sent to Rajya Sabha.

UP to release water to fix crisis in MP's Tikamgarh

While the AAP government requests the BJP regimes in UP and Haryana to release additional water for a month to help Delhi to deal with deepening water crisis, the Yogi Adityanath government in UP has agreed to MP CM Dr Mohan Yadav's request to supply water from the Jamrar Dam for addressing deepening drinking water crisis of MP's Tikamgarh. In a letter on June 12, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister has informed his MP counterpart that he will be releasing 0.72 million cubic meters (MCM) water in June from Jamrar Dam in order to address Madya Pradesh's Tikamgarh's drinking water woes that has plagued the city.

FIRST FLIGHT

Copter service begins for MP religious sites

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

TOURISM through aerial mode continues to get new wings in Madhya Pradesh. Three days after flagging off the inaugural flight of the intra-state air taxi service connecting eight prominent cities, the state's CM Mohan Yadav flagged off the first flight of the PM Shri Religious Tourism Helicopter Service on Sunday.

The helicopter service will connect the two cities/towns Ujjain and Omkareshwar (housing the two jyotirlingas Mahakal and Omkareshwar) with the state capital Bhopal and the commercial capital Indore.

While flagging off the first flight from his home city Ujjain, the CM Dr Mohan Yadav distributed tickets to the first passenger of the Heli Service, Disha Singh and family, who came from Mumbai.

Importantly, in the first phase of the service, the two jyotirlinga cities/towns will be connected with Bhopal and Indore. For devotees' convenience, the facility of booking the service has been made available through the IRCTC.

Houses razed as Yadav govt targets 'beef mafia'

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

AHEAD of the Eid-Ul-Adha (festival of sacrifice), the Mohan Yadav-led BJP government is cracking down against the "beef" mafia in Madhya Pradesh. The crackdown has happened in the last two days in two distinct corners of the state – tribal-dominated Mandla district of eastern MP bordering Chhattisgarh and communally sensitive Ratlam district of western MP neighbouring Rajasthan and Gujarat.

While five men (all from the minority community) have been arrested in the two districts the "illegally built" houses of the 15 accused (10 of whom are on the run) have been demolished by the local administration in both the districts.

The major crackdown happened by the police in Bhainswahi village of tribal dominated Mandla district. Acting on inputs about cow slaughters taking place in that village under Nainpur police station area (the village housing around 25 families of the minority community has been notorious for cattle slaughter over the last 4-5 years), heavy police force raided the village on Saturday.

By the time the police raided the village, most of the families in the concerned area had fled. Only one man identified as Wahid Qureshi (who actually hails from Damoh district of Bundelkhand region) was detained and questioned. "Beef" was seized from the refrigerator in his house. Subsequent checking of the other houses led the police to more such refrigerators stuffed with "beef" and also cooked "beef" biryani in significant quantities. Also, remains of cattle, including hides, fat and skin, besides bones were found in many houses, which included underground spaces.

"Around 150 cattle, including young calves were found tied at the backyards of the houses, possibly for being slaughtered ahead of the coming festival," Mandla district police said.

Wedding bells for another Mann minister

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

PUNJAB Tourism Minister and Kharar MLA Anmol Gagan Maan on Sunday solemnized her wedding with advocate-cum-businessman Shahbaaz Singh Sohi. She is the third Punjab minister to get married after AAP came to power in 2022.

Cabinet minister and Kharar MLA married Baltana resident Sohi. The Anand Karaj was held at Gurdwara Nabha Sahib in Zirakpur. Hailing from Mansa, Gagan was earlier a popular singer who belted out hits like 'Sherni and Cola vs Milk'.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and his family, AAP leaders Meet Hayer, Kuldeep Dhaliwal, Harbhajan Singh ETO, Aman Arora, actors Guggu Gill, Satinder Satti, attended the wedding at Sohi banquets owned by the groom's family.

Maan contested the elections for the first time in 2022 and won from Kharar and became a minister. After 2014, she became an active member of AAP and worked as a volunteer.

The Sohis have traditionally been a Congress-supporting family, as the groom's late father Ravinder Singh Sohi was close to former Punjab CM Beant Singh.

Kangana slapgate: Locals in Himachal thrash NRI

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

Himachal's economy depends on tourism. Such incidents will create fear and doubts in the minds of tourists. The Himachal govt should take strict action against culprits

Kuldeep Dhaliwal, Punjab NRI Affairs Minister

DAYS after Mandi MP Kangana Ranaut was slapped by a CISF woman constable at Chandigarh airport, two separate cases of assault, one involving a cop, were reported in what appeared to be the fallout of the "attack" on the actor-turned-politician.

A Punjab-origin NRI was allegedly beaten up in a parking area by a group of men in Himachal Pradesh's tourist hotspot Dalhousie where he had gone along with his Spanish wife on a holiday.

Punjab NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Dhaliwal today said the state police would register a 'zero FIR.'

The Himachal Pradesh Police, however, has maintained that the incident is not linked to any "inter-state or inter-community dispute." In another incident, an assistant sub-inspector of Chandigarh Police also faced a violent situation at another place in the hill state.

The NRI, Kawaljit Singh, is undergoing treatment in a hospital in Amritsar. He has claimed that he was targeted as he is a Punjabi.

Dhaliwal, who today visited the Amritsar hospital, said, "I have asked the victim's family to give its statement to the police."

In a second incident, ASI Chandigarh Police Paramjit Singh complained that his son called him up while he was in Khajjiar (Himachal), saying locals were objecting to his parking spot. The police officer said when he joined his son, the locals taunted and harassed him while referring to the slapping incident involving Ranaut.

Harassed over parking issue

The Punjab ASI, during a visit to Khajjiar in Himachal was allegedly harassed by the locals and area cops on a parking issue, forcing him to cut short his visit and return to Chandigarh where he is posted.

Leopard count dips amid rising cases of human-wildlife conflicts in U'khand

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

THE number of leopards in Uttarakhand has come down to 2,276, which is 652 less than that of last year, according to Wildlife Institute of India data. The leopard count in the hill state stood at 3,115 in 2018 and the numbers declined to 2,928 in 2022. Forest fires are a significant factor contributing to the diminishing population of leopards, as tigers tend to inhabit dense forests, leaving leopards to hunt in settlements near forested areas. The forests in Uttarakhand that leopards inhabit have been increasingly impacted by fires.

Wildlife experts say the forests of Uttarakhand are a safe natural habitat for leopards. However, with increasing leopard activity near human settlements, there is a rise in human-wildlife conflicts. The primary reasons for this are forest fires and a shortage of food for the leopards.

Leopard attacks on human settlements have been reported in many regions, including Pauri district of the Garhwal division, resulting in loss of life and property.

Tigers assert their authority in their territories, intimidating leopards and compelling them to vacate the area. As a result, the leopard population in wildlife reserves declined

Parag Madhukar Dhakate, IFS officer

"Forest fires can be a reason, but the tiger naturally does not allow any other animal to maintain its dominance in the forests. Since the tiger is much stronger, the leopard does not go for conflict in the forests," said Saket Badola, director of Rajaji Tiger Reserve.

Due to their superior strength in comparison to leopards, tigers exert significant dominance within their territories. Wildlife expert Parag Madhukar Dhakate, an IFS officer, said, "Tigers assert their authority in their territories, intimidating leopards and compelling them to vacate the area. As a result, the leopard population in wildlife reserves, such as Corbett, Rajaji, and Nandhaur, has noticeably declined."

According forest department, more than 175 leopards are roaming in each district of Uttarakhand. "There are 272 leopards in Almora, 232 in Pauri, 169 in Champawat, 134 in Nainital, 129 in Narendranagar, 145 in Tehri, 117 in Rudraprayag, and 138 in Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary," a forest official said. A forest department report says that in Uttarakhand, 30% of all human deaths and injuries by wildlife were caused by leopards.

Plan to relocate tigresses to Palamu reserve

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

TO retain the four tigers which have migrated to Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR), efforts are underway to relocate at least two tigresses and one tiger from another reserve.

Ahead of the move, the PTR is ensuring a prey-base for the big cats. PTR Director Kumar Ashutosh said all preparations are in place. Only the approval of the National Zoo Authority is awaited for shifting 350 animals to the Soft Release Centers (SRC) set up in the reserve.

Notably, the forest officials have set up four SRCs to ensure enough food for tigers, which will help them breed in the reserve. In these centres, animals are placed in pre-release cages placed close to the location where they will be released.

Each soft release centres at Baresadh, Lukaiya, Mundu and Dhardharia are spread over 10 hectares, which will provide an amicable atmosphere for the breeding of cheetals, which the tigers will prey on. "We have already obtained permission from National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for shifting the cheetals, sambhars and deer and expect to get the same from National Zoo Authority soon. As soon as the animals are moved to SRCs, we will relocate at least two tigresses and one tiger with NTCA's permission," the Director said.

As many as 200 cheetals from Betla National Park will be shifted to three different STCs, while another lot of 300 cheetals and sambhar will be brought from Bhagwan Birsa Biologial Park (Birsa Zoo) in Ranchi for the remaining SRCs. As of now, there are four SRCs in PTR, while two more are being prepared, he said.

Besides, several check dams have also been constructed to provide drinking water for the animals, he said.

"Two portable water sprinklers which can sprinkle water within a radius of 50 meters, to retain the greenery at the grasslands in PTR has been installed," said Kumar Ashutosh.

Solar water pumps, used for retain water level in the water bodies, has also been increased from 16 to 37 to retain water in the water bodies throughout the year in PTR, he added.

Notably, according to the report on the status of tigers in India, released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019, there were no tigers in PTR. Spread over an area of about 1,230 sq km, it was made a tiger reserve in 1973 and had a good number of the animals, which came down to three in the 2014 census and zero in the latest report.

NEW HOME FOR BIG CAT

To facilitate tiger breeding, tigresses to be moved in

A prey-base is being set up with smaller animals.

4 SRCs to being built to ensure enough food for big cats.

In SRCs, animals to be placed in pre-release cages close to the release location.

Once the animals are relocated, the big cats will be released in the PTR

SEVERAL CHECK DAMS HAVE ALSO BEEN CONSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE DRINKING WATER FOR THE ANIMALS

Two portable water sprinklers which can sprinkle water within a radius of 50 meters, to retain the greenery at the grasslands in PTR has been installed

Kumar Ashutosh, PTR Director

8-yr-old boy

Critical after he was shot in the head in Detroit suburb after a shooter opened fire

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	38	23	SNY	Los Angeles	25	16	SNY
Colombo	31	26	SNY	Melbourne	13	3	SNY
Dhaka	34	28	LR	Moscow	24	18	LR
Dubai	39	33	SNY	New York	28	21	SNY
Houston	31	25	LR	Singapore	31	27	SNY
Istanbul	31	21	SNY	Toronto	29	21	SNY
London	22	13	SNY	Washington	17	11	SNY

BACK TO TABLE

Taliban to attend next round of UN talks in Doha on June 30, July 1

KABUL

TALIBAN authorities will attend the third round of United Nations-hosted talks on Afghanistan in the Qatari capital, a government spokesman said on Sunday, after snubbing an invitation to the previous round.

The Taliban government's participation in the conference of foreign special envoys to Afghanistan had been in doubt after it was not included in the first set of talks and then refused an invitation to the second round in February.

"A delegation of the Islamic Emirate will participate in the coming Doha conference. They will represent Afghanistan there and express Afghanistan's position," Zabihullah Mujahid said.

The talks in Doha are scheduled for June 30 and July 1, and have already been criticised by women's groups.

Mujahid told Afghan media on Sunday that a delegation – yet to be announced – would attend because the talks' agenda appeared "beneficial to Afghanistan".

The agenda includes "topics such as aid for Afghanistan and creating opportunities for investors in Afghanistan, which are important", he said.

However, foreign ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi warned in a post on social media site *X* later on Sunday that "if there are any changes to the agenda and participation, it would naturally affect our decision" to attend.

Launched by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in 2023, the series of talks aim to "increase international engagement with Afghanistan in a more coherent, coordinated and structured manner." *AP*

(From left) Swiss Federal Councilor Ignazio Cassis, Swiss Federal President Viola Amherd, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Ukraine Head of the presidential Office of Ukraine Andriy Yermak attend the plenary session during the Summit on peace in Ukraine, in Obbürgen, Switzerland, on Sunday | AP

Swiss conference agrees territorial integrity of Kyiv must be respected

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed the first steps toward peace at the meeting

OBBÜRGEN

EIGHTY countries jointly on Sunday called for the "territorial integrity" of Ukraine to be the basis for any peace agreement to end Russia's two-year war, though some key developing nations at a Swiss conference did not join in.

The joint communique capped a two-day conference at the Bürgenstock resort in Switzerland marked by the absence of Russia, which was not invited, but that many attendees hoped could join in on a roadmap to peace some time in the future.

The all-out war since President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has killed or injured hundreds of thousands of people, unsettled world markets for goods like grain and fertilizer, driven millions from their homes and carved a wedge between the West — which has sanctioned Moscow over the war — and Russia, China and some other countries. About 100 delegations, mostly Western countries but also some key developing nations, were on hand for the conference that was billed as a first step toward peace at a time when the warring countries are seemingly as far apart as ever.

The event included presidents and prime ministers from France, Germany, Britain, Japan, Poland, Argentina, Ecuador, Kenya and Somalia. India, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates — which were represented by foreign ministers or lower-level envoys — were among those that did not sign the final document, which focused on issues of nuclear safety, food security and the exchange of prisoners.

Brazil, an "observer" country, did not sign on but Turkey — which has at times sought to act an intermediary between Russia and Ukraine — did.

The final document said the UN Charter and "respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty ... can and will serve as a basis for achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine."

Viola Amherd, the Swiss president who hosted the event, told the final news conference the "great majority" of participants agreed to the final document, which "shows what diplomacy can achieve." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed the "first steps toward peace" at the meeting, and said the joint communique remains "open for accession by everyone who respects the UN Charter."

Testifying to both war fatigue and other preoccupations that have emerged in recent months, only about half U.N. member countries took part. In March 2022, condemnation of Russia's invasion led to passage of a non-binding resolution at the U.N. General Assembly by 141 countries calling for a halt to Moscow's use of force and pullout of Russian troops.

In Switzerland, the challenge was to talk tough about Russia, but also open the door for it to join a peace initiative. *AP*

KREMLIN ASKS UKRAINE TO WITHDRAW TROOPS

Ukraine should "reflect" on Putin's call to withdraw its troops from the east and south of the country to open peace talks as its military situation is worsening, the Kremlin said on Sunday. "The current dynamic of the situation at the front shows us clearly that it's continuing to worsen for the Ukrainians," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. He said it was not an "ultimatum" but "a peace initiative that takes into account the realities on the ground"

Russian forces rescue captives unharmed, kill ISIS hostage takers

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN authorities on Sunday said that they had brought a siege at a prison in the southern Rostov region to a swift end, killing the Islamic State hostage-takers and freeing their two prison guard captives unharmed. The prison service had earlier reported that the two guards had been taken hostage by an unspecified number of Islamic State detainees and had entered negotiations for their release. But a short time later it issued a statement saying the siege had ended: "During a special operation...the criminals were liquidated and the employees who were taken hostage were released and were not injured."

No further details were released in the immediate aftermath of the drama at Detention Centre 1 in the Rostov region.

A police source told state news agency *TASS* that IS members who were due to appear in court on terrorism charges were among the hostage-takers. They were reported to be holed up in the prison courtyard, armed with a pocket-knife, a baton and an axe, the source said.

The *Interfax* news agency said there were six hostage-takers who demanded to be provided with a car and be allowed to leave the prison in exchange for the release of the hostages.

The incident comes nearly three months after gunmen killed at least 144 people when they opened fire inside a concert hall near Moscow in an attack claimed by the jihadist group.

Hundreds more were injured in the March 22 attack at the Crocus City Hall, the deadliest on Russian soil for two decades.

More than 20 people have since been arrested, including the four suspected gunmen, all from the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan, an impoverished country on Afghanistan's northern border.

Russia has been repeatedly targeted by attacks claimed by IS militants, though the jihadist group's influence in the country remains limited.

Nearly 4,500 Russians, mainly from the Caucasus, travelled to Iraq and Syria to fight with the Islamic State group. *AFP*

Russian policemen, Rosguardia servicemen and medical cars gather not far from a pretrial detention center in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, on Sunday | AP

4,400
acres have been destroyed because of the wildfire, triggering evacuation orders

SPREADING WILDFIRE

The fire burns through the Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area in Lebec, California, on Saturday. Authorities evacuated at least 1,200 people as the wildfire in Los Angeles County spread over thousands of acres near a major highway and threatened nearby structures, officials said. The flames broke out at around 1.45 pm. Crews were constructing perimeter fire lines while aircraft worked against limited visibility to stop the fire's progress, the fire department said | AFP

US unleashes wave of attacks on Houthi radar sites in Yemen

DUBAI

The US military unleashed a wave of attacks targeting radar sites operated by Yemen's Houthi rebels after one merchant sailor went missing and the vessel he was on caught fire in the latest Houthi strike on shipping in the crucial Red Sea corridor, authorities said on Saturday. The attacks come as the US Navy faces the most intense combat it has seen since World War II in trying to counter the Houthi campaign — attacks the rebels say are meant to halt the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

However, the Iranian-backed rebel assaults often see the Houthis target ships and sailors who have nothing to do with the war while traffic remains halved through a corridor vital for cargo and energy shipments between Asia, Europe and the Mideast. US strikes destroyed seven radars within Houthi-controlled territory, the military's Central Command said. It did not elaborate on how the sites were destroyed.

"These radars allow the Houthis to target maritime vessels and endanger commercial shipping," Central Command said in a statement. *AP*

WAR WATCH
ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 254

TOLL SO FAR
38,983

Eight Israeli soldiers killed in Rafah attack

An explosion in southern Gaza killed eight Israeli soldiers on Saturday, making it the deadliest attack on IDF in months. Saturday's explosion took place in Rafah. The military said the explosion happened just after 5 am in the Tal al-Sultan area of Rafah. A military spokesman said it was caused either by an explosive placed by Hamas or by an anti-tank missile.

EXPRESS READ

TTP commander killed in retaliatory fire

Islamabad: TTP commander Waliullah was killed by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Bannu in an intelligence-based operation in the Lakki Marwat district in the province, the Express Tribune newspaper reported. The operation was conducted in Tajuri Road near Malang Adda following which the armed terrorists opened fire on the police. Waliullah was killed in retaliatory firing. *PTI*

China's panda diplomacy

Melbourne: Chinese Premier Li Qiang's visit to Australia on Sunday focused on positive aspects of the bilateral relationship including shared giant pandas and a rebounding wine trade as he promised a new breeding pair of the rare bears and urged both countries to put aside their differences. He announced that another two pandas would be loaned.

Adidas probing allegations of corruption in China: Report

BEIJING

GERMAN sportswear giant Adidas has started an investigation into alleged large-scale bribery in China after senior employees were accused of embezzling millions of dollars, the *Financial Times* reported on Sunday.

A letter, allegedly written by "employees of Adidas China", accused several Chinese employees by name, the paper reported. Those accused included one of the company's executives involved with Adidas' marketing budget in China, which it said stood at $268 million a year.

Another Adidas China manager is said to have received "millions in cash from suppliers, and physical items such as real estate", according to the *FT*. *AFP*

Biden challenged to cognitive test

WASHINGTON

DONALD Trump on Saturday night suggested President Joe Biden "should have to take a cognitive test," only to confuse who administered the test to him in the next sentence.

The former president and presumptive Republican nominee referred to Texas Republican Rep. Ronny Jackson, who was the White House physician for part of his presidency, as "Ronny Johnson."

The moment came as Trump was questioning Biden's mental acuity, something he often does on the campaign trail and social media.

"He doesn't even know what the word 'inflation' means. I think he should take a cognitive test like I did," the former president said of Biden during a speech at Detroit.

Seconds later, he continued, "Doc Ronny Johnson. Does everyone know Ronny Johnson, congressman from Texas? He was the White House doctor, and he said I was the healthiest president, he feels, in history, so I liked him very much indeed immediately."

Donald Trump speaks at a campaign in Detroit on Saturday night | AFP

Jackson was elected to Congress in 2021 and is one of Trump's most vociferous defenders on Capitol Hill.

Trump, who turned 78 on Friday, has made questioning whether the 81-year-old Biden is up for a second term a centerpiece of his campaign. But online critics quickly seized on his Saturday night gaffe, with the Biden campaign — which has long fought off criticism about the Democratic president's verbal missteps — posting a clip of the moment minutes later.

Trump took the cognitive test in 2018 at his own request, Jackson told reporters at the time.

During speech, Trump also referenced a video clip widely circulated online in Republican circles where Biden is seen during the recently concluded Group of Seven summit in Italy watching skydivers land with flags from different nations.

A cropped version of the video shows Biden stepping away from the leaders, turning his back and walking in the other direction. He flashes a thumbs-up but it's not clear who he is gesturing to. A more complete angle of the same scene, however, shows that the president had turned to face a skydiver who has landed. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

SINGAPORE

SOUTHERN COASTLINE BLACKENED

An oil spill caused by a dredger boat hitting a stationary cargo tanker has blackened part of Singapore's southern coastline, including the popular resort island of Sentosa, and sparked concerns it may threaten marine wildlife as a clean-up operation was underway on Sunday. The Netherlands-flagged dredger Vox Maxima struck the Singaporean fuel supply ship Marine Honour on Friday. It damaged the cargo tank on Marine Honour, which leaked oil into the sea. Singapore's Maritime and Port Authority said the oil leak from the vessel had been contained. *AP*

MALAYSIA

PRIORITY FOR CHILDREN

Priority in solving citizenship applications has been given to cases involving illegitimate and adopted children under Article 15A of the Federal Constitution, says Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, *The Star* reported. He said this is because applications involving these two categories were the highest so far.

INDONESIA

EX-CANDIDATE TO RUN FOR JAKARTA GUV

Former presidential candidate Anies Baswedan has secured the backing of leaders from Indonesia's largest party in Parliament, sources say, in a major boost for his chances at the local government elections in November, *The Straits Times* reported. According to party insiders, the Jakarta branch of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) has proposed the fielding of Anies, who is not affiliated to any party, as the candidate for Jakarta governor in the election on Nov 27. It has also put forward its newly recruited cadreAndika Perkasa, 59, as a running mate.

81 LAKH investors' accounts are added by MF industry in 2 months

Why opening Family Investment Funds in GIFT City makes sense

FIFs in GIFT City have a wide range of permissible investments and enjoy tax benefits, including a tax holiday on business income for up to 10 years

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

WITH the rising number of high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), there is a growing awareness of the benefits of establishing Family Investment Funds (FIFs) in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gujarat.

According to some research reports, India is projected to experience an 85% increase in millionaires, with a potential surge of $22.5 trillion in Indian investable wealth by 2034. This wealth expansion underscores the importance of succession planning, with experts highlighting FIFs as a crucial strategy for effective succession planning." The concept of FIF is gradually gaining attraction and recently Azim Premji's family office received an in-principle approval to set up FIF in GIFT City. Premji's Bengaluru-based investment arm Premji Invest and Narayana Murthy-backed Catamaran Ventures were among the first to seek approvals.

So, what is a FIF and why are these HNIs ensuring their presence in GIFT City?

FIFs are self-managed pooling vehicles to manage the wealth of a family. In GIFT City, an FIF can only pool money from a single family, as per the IFSCA (Fund Management) Regulations, 2022. FIF can take the form of a company, LLP, or contributory trust with a minimum corpus requirement of $10 million within three years of registration.

FIF is allowed to borrow or engage in leveraging activities based on its risk management policy and can be structured as open-ended or closed-ended as needed. Unlike other investment vehicles, contributions by Family Offices/Resident Individuals are considered Overseas Portfolio Investment (OPI). Family Investment Funds in GIFT City have a wide range of permissible investments and enjoy tax benefits, including a tax holiday on business income for up to ten years within a fifteen-year period, nil Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) for domestic companies opting for a concessional tax regime, and a 10% tax rate on dividends paid to non-residents.

TAX BENEFITS AND EXEMPTIONS
Income-tax Holiday:
10 YEARS
out of a block of 15 years
Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) @ 9%:
NIL MAT, where concessional tax regime opted by domestic company
Dividend 10%: On Dividend paid to non-resident by units in IFSC
No Customs Duty: On goods imported in IFSC from outside India
No GST: On output supply/ services to offshore clients/ other IFSC units
Stamp Duty Exemption:
Exemption/ reimbursement of Stamp duty/ registration fee (Real estate)
CORPORATE LAW RELAXATION: VARIOUS RELAXATIONS FROM APPROVALS, CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CONTRIBUTION, FEWER COMPLIANCES
Many applications for FIFs are still pending approval, which would allow families to invest in a range of offshore assets

Is it important to set up a physical office in GIFT City?

Lokesh Shah, partner with IndusLaw said, "It is mandatory to set up a physical office in GIFT City by FIFs. In order to set up FIF in GIFT City, one of the preliminary steps is to identify space and obtain a provisional letter of allotment for the office space.

Post this, one has to apply to SEZ authority for unit approval. In order to obtain SEZ approval, the application form requires details of the physical office." Mahesh Shekdar, Co-founder at Dovetail Group said, "An office with minimum one employee is required; rightly so as all entities should have substance where they set up."

Regulatory framework

The regulatory framework in GIFT City has a crucial role to play in the structuring and management of FIF. "Under the new Overseas Investment (OI) Rules, 2022, overseas investments in unlisted companies generally fall under the category of ODI. Schedule V permits overseas investment in IFSC by a person resident in India – importantly, the contribution by Indian residents into an investment fund or vehicle set up in an IFSC will be treated as OPI," Shah stated.

How FIF is different in GIFT City from Mumbai, Dubai and Singapore

GIFT IFSC has numerous advantages to offer when compared to financial centres like Dubai and Singapore. GIFT IFSC scores over these jurisdictions in terms of cost of doing business and ease of set-up. Besides, significant efforts are being taken to develop the infrastructure, business environment and human capital. Mahesh Shekdar, Co-founder at Dovetail Group, said, "Having an FIF, in fact, is a great regulatory advantage, it allows both India inbound flows and India outbound flows from GIFT IFSC.Some family offices may find it challenging to have an office but it is becoming a global phenomenon to have substance requirements."

He added, "Mumbai does not have a FIF equivalent regulatory framework, but Singapore has taken the lead in this space; few thousand family funds have been set up in Singapore already. Dubai is picking up as well. This might be an opportunity for GIFT IFSC. Also, taxation can be favourable depending on the structuring undertaken."

MONEY MATTERS

INDIA'S 'GOLDILOCKS' MOMENT AND YOUR MONEY

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

A steady economic growth, accompanied by low inflation and a market-friendly monetary policy, creates a 'goldilocks' moment for an economy. The term 'Goldilocks' is inspired by the fairy tale 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Stock market investors love such a phase. Those who have invested regularly over the years know of the sense of comfort such a phase creates.

Over the past few weeks, analysts have pointed out that India's economy could be passing through it. That is a very conducive environment for businesses to expand, create demand and sell more goods and services. Between 2004 and 2008, when India's economy expanded rapidly and the inflation rate stayed low, the stock market boomed. Many analysts are hinting that the next five years are likely to see a repeat of that period.

The economy

Major global institutions like the IMF, the World Bank, the Reserve Bank of India, and several experts predict a steady economic growth of 6% to 7% for India's economy. Some predict a faster pick-up in growth than the average. A predictable rate of growth allows businesses to plan for the future. They allocate more money towards business expansion and create jobs. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian government has allocated more money towards capital expenditure and fulfilled that responsibility. However, many pundits believe that businesses would start investing once again.

Along with government spending on infrastructure, if businesses invest in it, it would further push economic activity by creating new jobs and boosting consumption. If private investments pick up, the government could increase subsidies and put more cash in the hands of the people. That would enhance the demand for goods and services. During the 2004-2008 phase, the government used the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act or MNREGA. Many analysts believe that the government's finances are vital and should prompt actions to boost consumption. Rural household spending shrunk after the COVID-19 pandemic and has yet to reach the pre-pandemic levels. However, the latest quarterly business results indicate a pick-up in rural consumption.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

Low inflation, monetary policy

That is perhaps the most considerable and most significant influence on your money. The re-election of the National Democratic Alliance led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi would mean a policy continuity. The same ministers handle critical portfolios in the third term. The Union Budget for 2024-25 will likely be presented in July 2024. According to Morgan Stanley, a global bank, the government will likely focus on macro-stability.

After crucial interest rates were left unchanged, the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee comments indicated that the RBI will continue to focus on interest rate hawkishness. That is despite two committee members recommending a cut in borrowing rates to stimulate economic growth.

However, RBI continues to flag risks related to food inflation but continues to support growth.

It returned over Rs 2,00,000 crore as a dividend that the government did not anticipate in the interim budget presented in February 2024. The money would support any government spending that could stimulate growth without putting any pressure on borrowing rates. A Morgan Stanley analysis shows that the government's management of the fiscal policy and the RBI's focus on price stability has made inflation volatility the lowest level in history. The other exciting pointer highlighted by the bank shows that the intensity of India's oil imports as a percentage of GDP is down to 4% from 8% of GDP earlier.

The relatively lower intensity is due to a higher use of electricity. The introduction of GST and electronic tolling on highways has reduced waiting time for trucks, faster highways, better cars, and alternative fuel. The decline in the intensity of oil imports has helped corporate profits and narrowed the current account deficit, supporting the Indian Rupee. That would ensure that inflation due to higher imports than before would remain in check.

A stable macroeconomic environment, low inflation, and better economic and earnings growth prospects mean that stock markets will continue to hold their current levels and rally with increased profits.

MONEY-WISE

SIZING ONE'S PORTFOLIO IS QUITE IMPORTANT

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

WHEN I see portfolios where people have made a lot of money in one share, I feel very good for them – they have made more money in a few years than people make in decades or even a life-time. When people make too much money in one share (or one piece of Real Estate) they start thinking it is their skill. They may have bought 50 shares in their lives, but when they make say 15x in 3 years, they don't think about the other 49 shares in which they have invested!

Let me give you an example of a friend with a net-worth of about ₹100 lakh.

He invested a disproportionately large amount –₹20 lakh in one share at ₹30 in the year 2020. It was a fantastic investment indeed and the share is now worth ₹450 per share. His net-worth is now about ₹500 lakh!

He should (logically) book profits –this share is now disproportionately too much in his total net-worth. Selling such shares and putting it in a multi-asset fund (or 2 multi-asset funds) is one of the best ways to reduce risk. This is not a way to increase returns, but to reduce risk.

Why is this necessary? If you have to increase your wealth you should know how to reduce risk. Morgan Housel in his book says –

There are a million ways to get wealthy, and plenty of books on how to do so.

But there's only one way to stay wealthy: some combination of frugality and paranoia. And that's a topic we don't discuss enough.

This 'booking of profit' is a must for all of us who have made an insane amount of money in a single transaction. Say a person with a ₹10 crore portfolio has one share which is ₹6 crore, he should rebalance it as soon as possible.

Of course the share price could go up higher, but if you have say 20,000 shares, selling 2,000 shares is not a bad idea at all. At a later date, he may have to sell another 2k shares. If a person has debt (many people with debt do invest too!) then booking profits to pay off the loans (at least partially) is a great idea too. Morgan goes on to talk about Jesse Livermore –a very successful trader who was once a very rich man who never locked in his profits. He died a pauper even though he was once a millionaire!

When you see a lot of profits in one share and you don't have any specific need for money, this rebalancing looks very cruel and restrictive. Actually it is a very good way to preserve wealth.

Say you bought 20,000 shares at ₹30 and now it is at 450, the kick of seeing 20,000*450 is huge! Actually 18,000*450 also is not bad, but the pleasure is addicting.

Sizing one's portfolio and reducing concentration risk are very important steps in wealth management.

Too much of profits from one share (or one fund or one house) looks nice, but the risk has to be reduced!

India is extremely inviting market if tech is built correctly, says Tally MD

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

INDIA is a hard market but if you build technology correctly it is a very open and extremely inviting market, said Tejas Goenka, Managing Director, Tally Solutions. Homegrown accounting software major Tally, which is planning to launch its new releases soon, is also growing rapidly in international markets.

In an interaction with TNIE, Goenka said the company is expanding into the Middle East and Africa, among others. "The bulk of our business comes from India- about 90%, and in the coming years, we will be seeing 30-40% growth. We are bringing out new products, expanding the reach of our partners," he said. In the international market, the firm is growing even faster and it continues to invest more in the ME. "Within the Middle East, the UAE has been a very strong market for us. If you look at the ME and Africa, the SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) behaviour ends up becoming very much like India," he said.

For Tally, Saudi Arabia is an up-and-coming market and in the next release, it got native Arabic version coming out as well. Goenka wants to make sure that Tally is continuously relevant to its customers and aims to launch innovative solutions for the market. Currently, it enables over 2.5 million businesses worldwide, and it aims to reach out to 3.5 million customers globally by 2026. According to Tracxn, Tally's revenue in FY23 stood at ₹578.2 crore, compared to ₹483.2 crore in the previous fiscal. It employs nearly 1,000 people and about 450 people are focused on products alone.

'Government needs to review FTAs that are not advantageous for India'

MONIKA YADAV & DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE Centre needs to review free trade agreements with countries like South Korea and other ASEAN countries that have not been very beneficial for India in terms of market access, Sanjiv Puri, Chairman of Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) said in an interaction with this newspaper. However, at the same time, these trade pacts with the UK, EU, UAE and Australia, among others, have been very helpful for the Indian economy, he highlighted.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) based in Delhi reported that India's merchandise trade deficit significantly increased by 302.9% with ASEAN countries and by 164.1% with South Korea. This comparison was made using data from the pre-Free Trade Agreement (FTA) period (2007-09) and the period between 2020-22. It is noteworthy that India had established trade agreements with these countries in 2010-11. During the mentioned periods, India experienced a higher growth rate in imports compared to exports when trading with these nations. Speaking of the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme, he said that the scheme is possible in sectors like textiles and toys, given the proven success in new age sectors and in some traditional sectors.

"PLI schemes have been there in new age sectors and in some traditional sectors also, like food processing etc. So, given the success, we can take the lesson from there and also construct them for labour intensive sectors and link them to the employment index," he added.

In response to a question on lackluster growth in the manufacturing sector, Puri said, "With all the policy interventions that have happened in recent years, where we have good balance sheets in the financial sector, corporate balance sheets are better, corporate income tax has been rationalised, PLI schemes, free trade agreements, all these have provided impetus to manufacturing and we are seeing it going in the right direction." "We now need to build on this momentum which will continue on the correct policy measures. The next set of reforms will strengthen the competitiveness of the manufacturing sector which is to do with reforms like factors cost, land, labour and to build consensus over that. Then it is about continuing the ease of doing business and making 'Make in India' initiative more competitive," Puri said.

Meanwhile, he expressed hope about revival in rural consumption in view of favourable monsoon prediction.

In discussion with Paytm for buying movies, events business, says Zomato

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

FOOD delivery platform Zomato on Sunday said that it is in talks with Paytm to acquire the financial technology company's movies and events business.

According to reports, the deal is pegged at over ₹1,600 crore. Recently, Zomato said that it will be investing ₹100 crore in its entertainment business.

In a regulatory filing, Zomato said while it is in discussions with Paytm, no binding decision has been taken yet. "We acknowledge that we are in discussions with Paytm for the aforementioned transaction, however, no binding decision has been taken at this stage that would warrant a board approval and subsequent disclosure in accordance with applicable law," Zomato said.

The company's filing was clarifying on reports that it was in talks to acquire Paytm's movies and ticketing business. "The above discussion is being undertaken with an intent to further strengthen our going-out business and is in line with our stated position of focusing only on our four key businesses currently," it added in the filing.

Vijay Shekhar Sharma during the analyst call post Q4 results had said that "We are looking at our cost structures or the business line items so that we can prune our non-core assets and we can create a leaner organisation focused on profitability."

He added that Paytm has done a good job of integrating, creating merchant opportunities where it offers advertising, marketing, APIs-led structure where there is consumer ticketing, travel, etc. "We are not losing focus and sight from our core which is payment cross sell financial services," he added.

Oz Open: Net gains for Lee, Ohori

Malaysian **Lee Zii Jia** outlasted Japan's Kodai Naraoka in the men's singles final to be crowned Australian Open badminton champion Sunday, while Aya Ohori of Japan clinched the women's title. Lee upset his sixth-ranked opponent 21-19, 11-21, 21-18 in Sydney. Ohori triumphed with a gutsy 17-21, 21-19, 21-16 come-from-behind beating of 35th-ranked Indonesian teenager Ester Nurumi Tri Wardoyo.

ENGLAND LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY

After a roller-coaster group stage, Buttler & Co qualify for Super 8s, but will have their task cut out from here

GOMESH S @ Chennai

IT was about 3.15 PM at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua on Saturday. After almost three hours since the scheduled start of their final group game against Namibia, anxiety had crept into the England dressing room. Understandably so.

A lot was at stake for the defending champions. Not only did they need a win, they needed Australia to beat Scotland in St. Lucia later in the evening. Such was the dire situation in Antigua that Cricket Scotland had taken to X (formerly known as Twitter) with a sarcastic post about the clear weather in St. Lucia. After all, a washout in Antigua would have meant Scotland go through to Super 8s irrespective of their result against Australia.

But eventually, the skies paved the way in Antigua. The match that was supposed to start at 12.30 PM was scheduled to begin at 4 PM and the number of overs per side had been reduced to 11. While Namibia had nothing to lose, they had a point to prove. They wanted to finish off on a high, spoiling England's party along the way.

For Jos Buttler and his team, it didn't matter what the number of overs or margin of difference was. All they needed was two points from the game and then pray to every god known that Josh Hazlewood was kidding about eliminating England. After all, until Thursday, England did not even think that they could come this close. So, the first act was to put a score on board after Gerhard Erasmus asked them to bat. The intent was there to see from ball one, as was the case when they chased down 48 runs against Oman in 3.1 overs. Buttler got out going for a big shot, and so did Phil Salt, but this time, their crisis man came to the party — Jonny Bairstow. Promoted to No 3, Bairstow found his touch very early. He stood back and launched David Wiese before reverse-sweeping and tonking Bernard Scholtz. With Harry Brook joining the party, England got going, racing to 69/2 in seven overs. Bairstow fell against the run of play and the clouds opened up, once again leaving England anxious.

England players rejoice after their victory over Namibia on Saturday | AP

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP WEST INDIES & USA 2024 JUNE 1-29 — AMERICAN EXPEDITION

The play was stopped for almost ten minutes and as a result an over was lost. When they came back, Brook, Moeen Ali and Liam Livingstone doubled down. They scored 34 runs in the last nine balls, posting 122/5 in ten overs. With the ball, though, England were clinical, defending a revised target of 126. Namibia could manage only 84/3, falling short by 41 runs (DLS). Buttler and Brook were relieved, but the drama was not over for the night. So much so that Buttler admitted that he would be a fan of their arch-rivals Australia for just one night.

Bairstow also echoed the sentiments after England's win: "I'm sure we'll be keeping an eye on it for sure but at the same time, there's not much we can do about what happens over there. We've done everything that's in our hands. We've overcome that net run rate and we've overcome the challenges that have been put in front of us. That Australia game was a tough game but the way that we've responded as a group, we've accepted the challenge that's been put in front of us and we've responded very well to that."

However, the contest in St Lucia did not end up being a straightforward match either. Riding on Brandon McMullen (60) and Richie Berrington (42 n.o), Scotland had cruised to 149/4 after 16 overs. In the last four, they could only manage 31 runs, leaving Australia 181 to chase. Things only got worse for England with Australia stuttering at 92/3 in 13 overs. It was around quarter past 11 as England had already been through a nervous 12 hours on Saturday.

Just when it looked like their worst fears would come true — an early group exit for defending champions as it was the case during the ODI WC too — Travis Head (68) and Marcus Stoinis (59) turned the game on its head. Over the three overs, they smashed 53 runs, including a 24-run over against Safyaan Sharif. From thereon, it was only a matter of time as Australia got home and England breathed a sigh of relief.

England stay alive. They live to fight another day. Deemed as one of the strong contenders for the tournament, England have had a roller-coaster of a tournament so far. From being all but out after their first two matches, they have given themselves a better chance, with some luck of course, to qualify for the Super 8s. Their batting order, playing XIs have come under the lens too; 2022 MVP Sam Curran is yet to play a game in this WC. But this is where the luck ends. From hereon, England need to put their best foot forward to enter the semifinals. Even more so with West Indies, South Africa and the United States in their Super 8s group. With the momentum on their side, they might just get their act together over the next couple of weeks. Whether they will be able to or not, we will have the answer over the next few days. **Brief scores:** England 122/5 in 10 ovs (Brook 47 n.o, Bairstow 31) **bt** Namibia 84/3 in 10 ovs (Michael van Lingen 33) (DLS); Scotland 180/5 in 20 ovs (McMullen 60; Maxwell 2/44) **lost to** Australia 186/5 in 19.4 ovs (Head 68, Stoinis 59; Watt 2/34).

Dress rehearsal before Super 8s

New Zealand take on Papua New Guinea while West Indies face Afghanistan on the last day of group stages. A look...

LAST T20I FOR BOULT?

With Trent Boult saying that he might not be around for the next World Cup, this could well be the last T20I he plays for New Zealand. After opting out of central contract, he made a comeback in the format to play in the WC.

WINDIES FACE AFGHAN CHALLENGE

While the outcome will not change anything in Super 8s groupings, Afghanistan will take a lot of confidence if they were to beat co-hosts West Indies. Whether they will be able to? Only time will tell.

Today's games New Zealand vs Papua New Guinea, Tarouba, 8 PM; West Indies vs Afghanistan, Gros Islet, 6 AM (Tuesday) — Live on Star Sports & Hotstar

T20WC ROUND-UP

Consolation win for Pakistan

LAUDERHILL: Former champions Pakistan beat Ireland by three wickets to register a consolation win in their inconsequential T20 World Cup match here on Sunday. Pakistan and Ireland had already been eliminated from the tournament with India and debutants and co-hosts USA progressing to the Super Eights from Group A. **Brief scores:** Ireland 106/9 in 20 ovs (Delany 31; Afridi 3/22, Imad 3/8, Amir 2/11) **lost to** Pakistan 111/7 in 18.5 ovs (Babar 32 n.o; McCarthy 3/15, Campher 2/24).

Wout Weghorst (L) celebrates his goal with teammates on Sunday | AP

Sub Weghorst snatches winner for Netherlands

AGENCIES @ Hamburg

SUBSTITUTE Wout Weghorst snatched a late winner for the Netherlands in a 2-1 victory over Poland on Sunday in their opening Euro 2024 clash. The Burnley striker, who burst into life at the 2022 World Cup, once again brought his best game to the big stage in Hamburg as Poland looked to have frustrated their opponents, despite injured striker Robert Lewandowski being unable to play.

The Barcelona striker's replacement Adam Buksa, headed Poland in front after 16 minutes before Cody Gakpo levelled with a deflected effort at the Volksparkstadion. Netherlands failed to convert further openings and Poland improved as the game seemed to be heading for a draw, before Weghorst intervened in the 83rd minute to delight his team's fans. Clad in their traditional vibrant orange, a sea of bouncing Dutch supporters took over the streets of Hamburg before the game, hoping for a second European Championship trophy. Coach Ronald Koeman, in his second stint at the helm, won the tournament with the Oranje as a player in 1988. The Netherlands, who performed strongly two years ago at the Qatar World Cup after failing to reach Euro 2016 and the 2018 World Cup, came out of the blocks quickly.

Despite lacking the star power of previous generations — the likes of Arjen Robben, Ruud van Nistelrooy and Robin van Persie — their current trio of forwards are dynamic. Liverpool winger Gakpo took the creative reins alongside Memphis Depay and Xavi Simons, and tested Wojciech Szczesny with a low drive. Midfielder Tijjani Reijnders steered a good chance narrowly wide before Michal Probierz's Poland took the lead against the run of play with one of their first forays forward.

Antalyaspor striker Buksa planted a glancing header beyond Brighton goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen from Piotr Zielinski's corner after 16 minutes. Szczesny saved well from Netherlands captain Virgil van Dijk and Depay flashed two efforts off-target before Gakpo levelled.

Later, Denmark were held 1-1 by Slovenia in a Group C match. Christian Eriksen had put the Danes ahead in the first-half. However, Erik Janza's deflected effort in the 77th minute helped Slovenia gain a point.

RESULTS: ITALY 2-1 ALBANIA; POLAND 1-2 NETHERLANDS; DENMARK 1-1 SLOVENIA

ITALY RALLY TO BEAT ALBANIA

DORTMUND: Italy recovered from conceding the fastest goal in European Championship history to begin their title defence with a 2-1 win over Albania on Saturday. Albania went ahead after just 23 seconds against Italy in the Group B opener in Dortmund as Nedim Bajrami scored to the delight of their huge support. Bajrami's strike destroyed the previous record for the quickest goal at the Euros, of 67 seconds by Dmitri Kirichenko for Russia against Greece in 2004. However, Italy kept their calm and equalised when Alessandro Bastoni headed in at the back post on 11 minutes, before Nicolo Barella's glorious effort put them ahead just past the quarter-hour mark.

TODAY'S MATCHES

France are on a mission as they begin their campaign against Austria on Monday. Les Bleus won the World Cup in Russia in 2018 and also won the UEFA Nations League in 2021 but the European Championship is the one title that has evaded the French since Didier Deschamps became coach in 2012.

Romania vs Ukraine | 6:30 pm
Belgium vs Slovakia | 9:30 pm
Austria vs France | 12: 30 am (Tuesday)

Live on Sony Sports Network

EXPRESS READ

UTT 2024: Sharath, Manika retained

NEW DELHI: Indian paddlers A Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra were on Sunday retained by their respective franchises for the upcoming edition of Ultimate Table Tennis to be held in Chennai from August 22 till September 7. Sharath will continue to represent last season's runner-up side Chennai Lions, while Batra will play for Bengaluru Smashers. Defending champions Goa Challengers have retained Harmeet Desai.

Lovlina loses to Qian, clinches silver medal

NEW DELHI: Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist boxer Lovlina Borgohain lost to China's Li Qian to settle for a silver medal in the women's 75kg contest at the Grand Prix Usti nad Labem in the Czech Republic. The Paris Olympic-bound Borgohain lost by a 2-3 split verdict in her final bout against the reigning Asian Games champion late on Saturday night.

CFC sign experienced defender Mandar

CHENNAI: Chennaiyin FC on Sunday announced the signing of Indian defender Mandar Rao Dessai in their squad, boosting their backline ahead of the 2024-25 ISL season. Dessai is regarded as one of the most successful players in the ISL, having won the league title in 2021 with Mumbai City FC & three League Shields — one with FC Goa (2020) & two with Mumbai City (2021 & 2023).

Shyam finishes on top in Honda Talent Cup

CHENNAI: The young riders of Honda Racing India team once again put up some eye-catching shows on Sunday. Shyam Shundar, 20, finished on top in Race 2 of the opening round of the 2024 IDEMITSU Honda India Talent Cup NSF250R here. The Chennai rider finished ahead of Mohsin P and Rakshith S Dave (also from Chennai), who finished second and third, respectively.

Ankita and Bhajan earn individual quotas in archery for Paris Olympics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

INDIA'S recurve archers Ankita Bhakat and Bhajan Kaur sealed individual quotas in women's archery of the Final Olympic Qualifier here on Sunday to confirm country's representation for next month's Olympic Games in Paris. Bhajan won the gold medal, defeating Mobina Fallah of Iran 6-2 to earn the quota for India.

Ankita outplayed Gabrielle Monica Bidaure of the Philippines to enter the quarterfinal to seal the Olympics spot. Ninth seed Ankita cruised to a 6-0 victory over her the 40th-seeded rival in the pre-quarterfinals. India thus have secured individual quotas in both men's and women's sections.

Dhiraj Bommadevara had secured the men's individual quota from the Asian qualifying leg earlier. In the earlier rounds, Ankita had gotten the better of Shelley Hilton 6-4 and Mikaella Moshe 7-3, both from Israel, to make it to the last 16 stage. In the quarterfinal, the 25-year-old lost to Iran's Mobina Fallah 6-4.

Ankita Bhakat | AAI

On the other hand, third-seeded Bhajan, who got a bye into the Round of 32, overcame Urantungalag Bishindee of Mongolia 6-2 to reach the fourth round. A win against Slovenia's Urska Cavic in there saw her seal the second Indian quota of the day. Bhajan eventually made it to the final and defeated Mobina, who had defeated Ankita.

Earlier premier Indian archer Deepika Kumai, who qualified as second seed, suffered an opening round defeat to little known Yaylagul Ramazanova of Azerbaijan.

Indian men's and women's teams have failed to seal the quotas. They still can earn Paris berths if they maintain their World Rankings till the cutoff date of June 24.

The top-two nations from among the countries who have not got team quotas will make the cut. The men's team is currently No 2 behind South Korea who have already qualified. The women's team is currently No 8 and all these seven nations ahead of them have already got team quotas.

Ganemat stays in hunt for final

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

SHOOTER Ganemat Sekhon was the best-placed Indian at ninth spot after four rounds of women's skeet qualification stage in the ongoing Lonato World Cup. Ganemat had a tally of 95 after Day 2. Ahead of the final 25-target round of qualification stage, scheduled to be held on Monday, she'll be hopeful of a strong finish. The six-person final is also slated to be held on Monday.

Quota winners Maheshwari Chauhan and Dhillon Raiza were placed 37th and 41st, respectively.

In the men's section, Sheeraz Sheikh, who was placed joint top after the first two rounds, slipped to 24th spot on Day 2 of the men's qualification stage. Quota winner Anant Jeet Singh Naruka was placed 26th. Mairaj Ahmad Khan, the third shooter from the country, was placed at 91st spot.

DREAM DEBUT

Of faith and patience to hope and joy: The journey of Asha

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

"THERE is a story of Job in the Bible. He was a true believer of God," Asha Sobhana says over a zoom call. "Satan would come and ask Job if he could give up on God. (If he did so) Satan would give everything back- his richness, health, everything. However, Job stuck by God and he continued to praise God during his difficult times. Eventually, his life was backed by God. So he stuck with the belief in God and the reward was there. I think we need to wait for that moment to come, no matter what darkness we go through. That's what I have learned."

India's latest debutant in the ODIs, cap no. 143, relates the most with the aforementioned verse and the story of Job from the bible. For it has been her living and breathing experience. The 33-year-old, who was probably nowhere near plans for international cricket two years ago, to have a debut in both white-ball formats within two months is a story of patience backed by her unwavering faith. On Sunday, it all came together as Asha took 4/21 and helped India beat South Africa by 143 runs in Bengaluru.

Asha's endurance did not come overnight. It all started in mid 2000s when she made her senior debut for Kerala and has continued over the past two decades with every side she has represented — Railways, Pondicherry and so on. "Domestic cricket in India is tough because we have more than 20 domestic sides with quality players. Playing from Railways helped me to be mentally strong and perform. Playing from Kerala helped me as a leader. Pondicherry helped me grow as well. When you keep performing at the domestic level continuously, the result will come. Maybe it will take some time, but the result will come," she told this daily before the series.

The consistent performance at the domestic level doesn't always guarantee a spot in the national squad and that is when the test of Asha's patience truly began. She was consistent but needed the visibility to truly make a splash. Just like Job, she had faith by her side. Eventually, the opportunity came knocking in the Women's Premier League in 2023. As fate would have it, Asha's name was not included in the first auction list announced by the BCCI. Ultimately, faith prevailed. "Well, for me, faith was everything. My name was not on the auction list when they published it. It was a miracle that my name was added on the auction day. And here I am and I have already played for India. That is a miracle with my hard work," she says.

Asha Sobhana (L) claimed 4/21 on her ODI debut vs South Africa | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Once Asha earned her spot in the Royal Challengers Bengaluru squad, she found herself in the playing XI regularly. Led by Smriti Mandhana, the franchise had a forgetful first season where the team failed to make it to the top three. Come 2024, RCB needed a turnaround. That is when Asha's experience came in handy. The leggie made most of her opportunities to turn Bengaluru's fate. Backed by Mandhana, she took 12 wickets in the season as her side lifted the trophy. "Smriti is always my go-to person, whenever I have any doubts, I always go to her and discuss things. Getting a spinner at the right time for the right batters is the captain's choice. She made all the right choices. It is difficult to make such choices in a difficult time, but she had so much belief in me," Asha said. It was fitting that the day Asha made her ODI debut, Mandhana scored her first ODI century on the home soil. It was also fitting that Mandhana handed Asha her T20I debut cap against Bangladesh in May. "It's a wonderful feeling. When we watch on TV, the Indian team plays such a beautiful brand of cricket. Playing in that team, among players like Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti and other players, I felt nice. That credit should go to the management, captain and vice-captain," she mentioned.

'And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up," says the bible (Galatians 6:9). Asha's journey from domestic cricket to having the second-best ODI figures on debut for India has reflected that saying. For her, patience and faith have led to hope. And ultimately to joy, as her name suggests. It may sound unconventional, but that same patience and faith has allowed her to start a new journey at the age of 33. And if her performance in the debut match was any indication, more rewards are coming her way. **Brief scores:** India 265/8 in 50 ovs (Mandhana 117, Khaka 3/47) **bt** SA 122 in 37.4 ovs (Luus 33; Asha 4/24).

Full story: newindianexpress.com

GOING FOR A TEST DISTINCT FROM THE REST

English—a language that has been officiated as a medium for global communication, commerce, trade,and academia—brings varied opportunities to those who master it. And if you are seeking a life outside India, you may have to pass a test which proves your command over it. EdexLive has complied a list of these tests and other facts you must know when you appear for them

WITH opportunities teeming in several western nations, English proficiency tests are a gateway to secure your entry into these countries. To evaluate what suits your purpose best, and which countries deem certain tests legitimate, here is a list that offers you a complete understanding of the tests:

TEST: OET (Occupational English Test)

What is it?: This is an English language test designed to evaluate the proficiency of overseas-trained healthcare professionals who wish to register and practice in an English-speaking environment.

Accepted in countries: For migration and licensing in Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Recognised by regulatory healthcare boards and councils globally, including in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Ireland, Dubai, Singapore, Namibia, and Ukraine.

TEST: CAEL (Canadian Academic English Test)

What is it?: CAEL is officially recognised by professional organisations, colleges, universities, and employers as proof of English language proficiency.

Accepted in countries: Accepted by numerous institutions and organisations, primarily in Canada

TEST: CELPIP (Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program)

What is it?: The CELPIP test is accepted for Canadian Citizenship and other programmes

- Canadian Experience Class (CEC)
- Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP)
- Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)
- Start-up Visa Program
- Student Direct Stream (SDS)
- Various Provincial Nominee Programs

Accepted in countries: Accepted in various contexts, primarily in Canada.

TEST: TOEIC (Test of English for Internal Communication)

What is it?: TOEIC measures your ability to perform at work and in real-life English communication scenarios, aiding career advancement, and higher education preparation.

Accepted in countries: Accepted globally

TEST: iTEP (International Test of English Proficiency)

What is it?: Versions of the test are available for education (iTEP Academic), for admissions at universities and schools. Also, for business applications (iTEP Business), and other job-related exams such as the iTEP Hospitality, iTEP Au Pair, iTEP Intern, iTEP Conversation.

Accepted in countries: Accepted in Canada, the United States, Mexico and Colombia.

TEST: ISE (Integrated Skills in English)

What is it?: ISE is a UK government government-approved test for settlement and visa application purposes when taken at a Trinity SELT Centre. Trinity Secure English Language Tests (SELTs) are approved for applications to UKVI for visas, UK visa renewal, British Citizenship, Settlement and Leave to Remain.

Accepted in countries: Accepted only in the United Kingdom

top list

TEST: Cambridge English

What is it?: Three levels of tests are devised for individuals namely:

- Cambridge English: First (FCE) - B2 First qualification proves you have the language skills to live, work, or study independently in an English-speaking country.
- Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) - Over 9,000 educational institutions, businesses, and government departments worldwide accept C1 Advanced as proof of high-level English proficiency.
- Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE) - A C2 Proficiency qualification demonstrates exceptional English mastery, proving you can communicate with the fluency and sophistication of a highly competent speaker.
- Cambridge English: Business Certificates (BEC) - Three levels (Preliminary, Vantage and Higher) proves your proficiency with the business language and your skills with handling global business.

Accepted in countries: Accepted globally

TEST: IELTS (International English Language Testing System)

What is it?: IELTS is designed to test the language ability of people who want to study or work where English is used as the language of communication.

Accepted in countries: One of the most widely accepted tests all over the globe.

TEST: ECPE (Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English)

What is it?: Developed by Michigan Language Assessment (a collaboration between the University of Michigan and Cambridge Assessment English). It is a high-level English proficiency test. It is designed to assess the English proficiency of a university-level adult and working professionals keen on improving their job prospects.

Accepted in countries: Mainly the United States, but accepted by major English speaking nations.

TEST: ECCE (Examination for the Certificate of Competency)

What is it?: The ECCE assesses general English skills rather than strictly academic ones. Applicants can use the ECCE certificate to prove their English proficiency for personal, public, educational, and professional purposes.

Accepted in countries: Accepted in many countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and others.

TEST: GTelp (General Tests of English Language Proficiency)

What is it?: The General Tests of English Language Proficiency assess English language proficiency at five different levels of functional ability, such as in speaking and writing.

Accepted in countries: Many countries accept the test score, yet it is mainly used in countries like South Korea, China, Japan, Taiwan, Argentina and others.

OTHER TESTS INCLUDE:

- **GTelp Business:** Assesses an examinee's ability to use English to communicate in a business setting.
- **EPTA** (English Proficiency Test for Aviation)**:** The English Proficiency Test for Aviation (EPTA) assesses speaking and listening skills specific to aviation, meeting ICAO language proficiency requirements.

TEST: PTE (Pearson Test of English)

What is it?: Three types include:

- **PTE Academic:** For global university and college study, visa applications to Australia and New Zealand, and professional registration.
- **PTE Core:** A general English test, recognised by the Canadian government for immigration and citizenship applications.
- **UK Visa Tests:** English tests for visa applications to work, and settle in the United Kingdom. Includes PTE Home tests and PTE Academic UKVI.

Accepted in countries: For global university and college study, visa applications to Australia and New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

TEST: Oxford Test of English

What is it?: Recognised by over 600 institutions worldwide, the Oxford Test of English and Oxford Test of English Advanced are designed for learners aged 16 and older. The Oxford Test of English is accepted to meet English language requirements for study entry visas, and other requirements.

Accepted in countries: Accepted globally in over 80 nations.

TEST: Oxford English Language Level Tests (OELLT)

What is it?: Administered by the Oxford International Digital Institute, it is an online test that assesses English proficiency for educational or professional purposes.

Accepted in countries: Accepted by 60+ universities worldwide

TEST: Duolingo English Test (DET)

What is it?: The Duolingo English Test is increasingly recognised as a flexible and accessible option for demonstrating English proficiency in academic and professional contexts

Accepted in countries: Many universities and colleges in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia.

TEST: Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

What is it?: It offers three tests, namely,

a) TOEFL itp - *Assessment programme for ages 16+ to measure and evaluate English-language skills.*

b) TOEFL essentials - Accepted by universities worldwide, is a general English test.

c) TOEFL ibt - The TOEFL iBT is a three-hour, comprehensive academic English test.

Accepted in countries: Used for study route visas in more than 150 countries across the world, and in popular study destinations such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and Ireland.

TEST: APTIS

What is it?: Developed by the British Council, it tests language competency in cases where higher levels of English (CEFR* B1-C2) need to be tested.

Accepted in countries: Accepted by governments and organisations in more than 85 countries.

TEST: English Score

What is it?: Developed by the British Council, it evaluates grammar, vocabulary, reading, and listening. It can be used to demonstrate proficiency, or to prepare for exams like the IELTS.

Accepted in countries: Used by employers, corporations, and over 1,000+ educational institutions globally.

Know your Facts

DO you know that English proficiency tests follow the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) standard for language ability and scoring? Before choosing your test, here are a few factors you should keep in mind to ensure it complies with CEFR norms

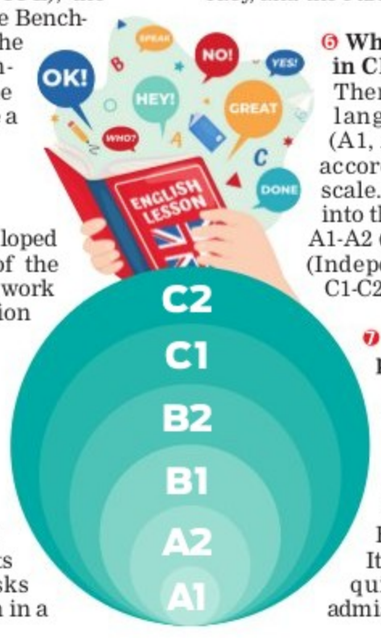
1 What is the CEFR?
The CEFR, or Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, is just one among various frameworks delineating your language proficiency on a six-point scale, from A1 for beginners, up to C2 for those who have mastered a language.

2 Are there any other scales apart from CEFR?
The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Proficiency Guidelines (ACTFL), the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB), and the Interagency Language Roundtable scale (ILR), to name a few.

3 When was the CEFR developed?
The CEFR was developed as a continuation of the Council of Europe's work in language education during the 1970s.

4 How does the CEFR help in evaluation?
Instead of being linked to a specific test, the CEFR comprises a set of "can-do" statements that outline the tasks you can accomplish in a foreign language at various levels of proficiency.

5 Is the concept of CEFR biased?
As per the Council of Europe, CEFR recognises the importance of school languages for educational success and views language support for migrants as crucial for their integration and participation in democratic societies. It emphasises the need for support for plurilingual and intercultural education to uphold the council's pillars of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.



6 What are the levels in CEFR?
There are six levels of language proficiency (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) according to the CEFR scale. They are grouped into three broader levels: A1-A2 (Basic User), B1-B2 (Independent User), and C1-C2 (Proficient User).

7 What is the most popular CEFR level?
The B2 level is the most in-demand one when employers require "active command of the English language". It is also a usual requirement for school admission.

AROUND THE WORLD

HERE IS A LOOK AT ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TESTS ACROSS VARIOUS COUNTRIES

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TOEFL IBT
Year of origin: 2005
STRUCTURE: ● Reading (3 to 4 passages, each containing 10 questions) ● Listening (5 to 7 passages, each containing 5 to 6 questions) ● Speaking (4 tasks) ● Writing (2 tasks)
Required Score: 80/120

IELTS
Year of origin: 1980
STRUCTURE: ● Listening (40 questions) ● Reading (40 questions) ● Writing (2 tasks) ● Speaking (1 task) | Required Score: 6.5/9

ITEP
Year of origin: 2008
STRUCTURE: ● Grammar ● Listening ● Reading ● Writing ● Speaking |
Required Score: 4.5/6

DUOLINGO ENGLISH TEST
Year of origin: 2016
STRUCTURE: ● Introduction & Onboarding ● Adaptive Test ● Writing Sample & Speaking Sample
Required Score: 110/160

UNITED KINGDOM

IELTS
Year of origin: 1980
STRUCTURE: ● Listening (40 questions) ● Reading (40 questions) ● Writing (2 tasks) ● Speaking (1 task)
Required Score: 6/9

TOEFL IBT
Year of origin: 2005
STRUCTURE: ● Reading (3 to 4 passages, each containing 10 questions) ● Listening (5 to 7 passages, each containing 5 to 6 questions) ● Speaking (4 tasks) ● Writing (2 tasks)
Required Score: 120-150

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH A2 KEY (KET)
Year of origin: 1990
STRUCTURE: ● Reading & Writing (32 questions) ● Listening (25 questions) ● Speaking (2 parts)
Required Score: 120-150

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH B1 PRELIMINARY (PET)
Year of origin: 1980
STRUCTURE: ● Reading (32 questions) ● Writing (2 questions) ● Listening (25 questions) ● Speaking (4 parts)
Required Score: 140-170

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH B2 FIRST (FCE)
Year of origin: 1975
STRUCTURE: ● Reading and Use of English (52 questions) ● Writing (2 parts) ● Listening (30 questions) ● Speaking (4 parts)
Required Score: 140-190

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH C1 ADVANCED (CAE)
Year of origin: 1990
STRUCTURE: ● Reading and Use of English (56 questions) ● Writing (2 parts) ● Listening (30 questions) ● Speaking (4 parts) | Required Score: 160-210

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH C2 PROFICIENCY (CPE)
Year of origin: 1913
STRUCTURE: ● Reading and Use of English (53 questions) ● Writing (2 parts) ● Listening (30 questions) ● Speaking (3 parts)
Required Score: 180-230

CANADA

IELTS
Year of origin: 1980
STRUCTURE: ● Listening (40 questions) ● Reading (40 questions) ● Writing (2 tasks) ● Speaking (1 task) | Required Score: 6/9

CELPIP
Year of origin: 2002
STRUCTURE: ● Listening ● Reading ● Writing ● Speaking | Required Score: 67/100

CAEL
Year of origin: 1987
STRUCTURE: ● Written Assessment: Reading Section 1; Listening Section; Reading Section 2; Writing Section ● Oral Language Test (5 tasks)
Required Score: Overall 70

PTE
Year of Origin: 2020
STRUCTURE: ● Speaking & Writing ● Reading ● Listening | Required Score: 60/90

NEW ZEALAND

IELTS
Year of origin: 1980
STRUCTURE: ● Listening (40 questions) ● Reading (40 questions) ● Writing (2 tasks) ● Speaking (1 task) |
Required Score: 6.5/9

TOEFL IBT
Year of origin: 2005
STRUCTURE: ● Reading (3 to 4 passages, each containing 10 questions) ● Listening (5 to 7 passages, each containing 5 to 6 questions) ● Speaking (4 tasks) ● Writing (2 tasks)
Required Score: 79/120

PTE
Year of origin: 2020
STRUCTURE: ● Speaking & Writing ● Reading ● Listening
Required Score: 58 overall

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH B2 FIRST (FCE)
Year of origin: 1975
STRUCTURE: ● Reading and Use of English (52 questions) ● Writing (2 parts) ● Listening (30 questions) ● Speaking (4 parts)
Required Score: 176 overall

OET
Year of Origin: 1980
STRUCTURE: ● Listening ● Reading ● Writing ● Speaking
Required Score: At least 'B' in all components

AUSTRALIA

IELTS
Year of origin: 1980
STRUCTURE: ● Listening (40 questions) ● Reading (40 questions) ● Writing (2 tasks) ● Speaking (1 task)
Required Score: 7/9

TOEFL IBT
Year of origin: 2005
STRUCTURE: ● Reading (3 to 4 passages, each containing 10 questions) ● Listening (5 to 7 passages, each containing 5 to 6 questions) ● Speaking (4 tasks) ● Writing (2 tasks)
Required Score: 24 for Listening, 24 for Reading, 27 for Writing and 23 for Speaking

PTE
Year of origin: 2020
STRUCTURE: ● Speaking & Writing ● Reading ● Listening
Required Score: 65 in each component

OET
Year of origin: 1980
STRUCTURE: ● Listening ● Reading ● Writing ● Speaking
Required Score: At least 'B' in all components

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH C1 ADVANCED (CAE)
Year of origin: 1990
STRUCTURE: ● Reading and Use of English (56 questions) ● Writing (2 parts) ● Listening (30 questions) ● Speaking (4 parts)
Required Score: At least 185 in all components

— Compiled by Lovely Majumdar and Karthikeya S

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

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17.06.2024
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Tennis star born

Venus Williams, an American tennis star, was born on this day in 1980 in Lynwood, California, 15 months before Serena Williams

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

In 1997, Venus became the first US Open women's finalist and lost. In 2000, she won both Wimbledon and the US Open, and successfully defended her titles in 2001

OLYMPICS

Venus has won four gold medals, one silver in her Olympic participating history and is the first woman to win singles and doubles at the Games in 2000

LEGACY

Venus has been outspoken about the eradicating racism and sexism, and helped facilitate equal pay for men and women at the Grand Slams

A curated guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

SCREEN TIME

Veteran theatre director Lillete Dubey's directorial teleplay *Womanly Voices*, an anthology of three diverse short stories from women writers, is now available in Kannada and Telugu

Stills from the teleplay

POOJA DAS

WHETHER it is bringing the life of the illustrious artiste Gauhar Jaan, one of the first Indian singers whose voice was recorded on the gramophone in her play *Gauhar* or adapting pieces from Shobhaa De's *Lockdown Liaisons* for stage with *Vodka and No Tonic*, veteran theatre artiste and director **Lillete Dubey** is drawn to powerful stories, often with strong female characters or writers. The same is the case for her directorial teleplay *Womanly Voices*, which will now be available in Kannada and Telugu on Zee Theatre. "Without realising it, I am drawn to stories where the characters are strong women or the writers are women," shares Dubey, adding, "I'm not on a mission to do plays about women empowerment, it is all very subconscious for me. I do stories that appeal to me at that point in my life, depending on where I am."

> *We had a lot of fun bringing the stories to stage as a drama...I wanted the audience to see how well women write, especially because they were not writing about what people would expect women to write*
> **Lillete Dubey, theatre director**

Looking forward to sharing these powerful stories with a broader audience with the translated versions, she says, "I have friends who are Kannadigas and Telugu speaking and it would be fun for me to have them watch it." The teleplay features stories of some of the finest women writers of their time, Wajida Tabassum's *Utran*; Mahasweta Devi's *Shishu* and Gita Mehta's *The Teacher's Story*. "One day, I was reading *Katha*, an anthology of short stories written by women, and came across *Utran*. People told me that there has been a famous series on it as well but I did not want to do that so I decided on an anthology," she says.

The three stories, Dubey notes, were different from each other when it came to their themes which made it extremely fun to direct. "They were not love stories and we had a lot of fun bringing it to the stage as a drama, like improvising the dialogues and working with actors. I wanted the audience to see how well women write, especially because they were not writing about what people would expect women to write," says Dubey. Tabassum's *Utran* addresses class division, Devi's tale delves into the resilience and struggles of India's tribal communities, and Mehta's story revolves around a music teacher who finds meaning by teaching a blind child.

"*Utran* is such a strong statement on class division and the story says so much in only two and a half pages," observes Dubey, adding that it is one of the most enjoyable productions that she has directed to date. "Now that I'm talking about it, I'm getting inspired to go back and think of three to four more stories," laughs Dubey. Transforming these stories from stage to screen brought a different vibe.

Dubey shares the increased richness and visual enhancement possible in a teleplay. "On stage, everything was simpler. In the teleplay, there was more richness, and more props, and we could use lighting in a very different way. It was like cinema," she explains. This adaptation allowed for more detailed imagery, adding to the overall experience.

The actor-director sees immense potential in digital adaptations of theatre and believes that – when done right – digital platforms can capture the immediacy and essence of live theatre. "Some people have managed to crack it like the National Theatre in England and the Metropolitan Opera in America and it's doing very well because they are so well recorded. So there's a lot of scope in that... It's all about getting it right and having fun," says Dubey, who is currently working on *Jaya*, a rock musical adaptation of the *Mahabharata* which is set to debut in Bengaluru soon.

Conceptualised by renowned Bharatanatyam dancer Vaibhav Arekar, *And She Spoke* is an evocative dance-theatre production that amplifies women's voices against the backdrop of a patriarchal society

Her voice

POOJA DAS

IN times of uncertainty, most people turn to art to break deafening silences and make sense of the world again. As the world grappled with a global pandemic, many artistes turned inward to push their boundaries and step out of their comfort zones. One such process led to the creation of *And She Spoke*, a dance-theatre production, conceptualised by renowned Bharatanatyam dancer Vaibhav Arekar to bring forth the voices often stifled and forgotten. "During the pandemic, when we were held up in our houses not doing anything, I thought of creating a process with dancers I had never worked with to bring out something new and experimental that amplified women's voices," says Arekar.

In a period marked by stillness and introspection, Arekar, alongside a diverse group of dancers, sought to break free from the traditional art forms. "I feel that each of us as artistes has to work not only in our medium but also some other medium. It could be music, theatre, or painting...We thought of looking at women around us and using them as inspiration to find our own stories," he adds.

Born from an online research lab during lockdown, the 'process' as Arekar calls it began with using poetry, paintings, and dance to share stories inspired by the women around them. "It was a six-month process, during which I thought a work could be developed. Because many interesting things happened and a lot of dancers opened up about their experiences," shares Arekar, adding, "It's not exactly a classical dance piece; it has open and experiential movement." The dancers, though classically trained, embraced a fluid approach allowing them to challenge their muscle memory.

And She Spoke is not confined to the boundaries of Bharatanatyam or any single dance form. Instead, it embraces a broader approach, where movement becomes a vessel for storytelling. The production blends live singing, spoken word, and experiential movement, creating a multisensory experience that transcends conventional performance art. "Theatre is very important here because the stories we are telling are important. Dance becomes an extension of the emotion," elaborates Arekar.

The 75-minute long show tells stories of abuse, patriarchy, and resilience shared by the dancers. "The concept was by me but each of these stories has come out of the dancers themselves. Two dancers reimagine the tale of Ahilya, a mythological figure often silenced in traditional narratives. Another dancer addresses the plight of women under oppressive regimes, drawing parallels to contemporary realities," says Arekar.

Stills from *And She Spoke*

Arekar's vision was shaped by his collaboration with co-director Sushant Jadhav. "Sushant came in as the main director with me because I needed somebody else who could offer a new dimension to connect all the dots and put together a narrative," Arekar notes, adding, "I would like to say that it is not an attempt to look for answers. They are just putting forth questions and feelings. It's a messy world and this mess is what lets a work like this go on stage."

(And She Spoke will be staged on June 22, 6.30pm at Medai - The Stage Bengaluru, Koramangala)

CITY READ

Dance extravaganza on June 22

Kalasindhu Academy of Dance and Related Arts, Banashankari is hosting a dance extravaganza titled Ekadasha Rudra on June 22, at 6pm, at Chowdiah Memorial Hall. Directed by Poornima Kaivar Gururaja, the event will feature five globally-renowned dancers, who will present a fusion of Indian classical dance forms, including Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Mohiniyattam, among others.

Students present urban architectural solutions

CMR University School of Architecture (SOA) announced the successful completion of its final year architectural thesis juries, held on June 10 and 11. Sixty students presented their tenth-semester projects, under the leadership of director, Prof. Muralidhar K. Some projects were showcased at the exhibition which were all about making cities better and bringing people together. The Jayanagar shopping complex makeover stood out among all the projects showcased. Other projects included fixing Nagavara Lake and creating a centre for garbology. Muralidhar said, "The projects presented this year reflect the deep understanding of the complex interplay of issues within Bengaluru's urban fabric."

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first-prize winner will receive a voucher worth ₹2,000 from Caraway Kitchen, Conrad Bengaluru **

THE RIGHT ANSWERS
1) Okroshka 2) Mooncake 3) Jordgubbstårta

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT
1) Sanju KL
2) Sumanth Kumar
3) Rajeshwari M

BOOK NOOK

The Rule Book
By Sarah Adams

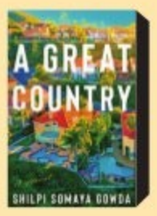
College sweethearts Nora and Derek reunite when she becomes his sports agent. Their past romance leads to hilarious challenges, but a wild Vegas night throws them into a marriage of convenience that could change everything.

House of Flame and Shadow
By Sarah J Maas

Separated in a strange new world, Bryce and Hunt must find their way back to each other and Midgard, their home. With danger looming, they race against time to save themselves and prevent the collapse of their world.

The Reappearance of Rachel Price
By Holly Jackson

This true-crime-fueled mystery thriller revolves around Bel, who is haunted by her mother unsolved disappearance sixteen years ago. Being the only witness, her world is thrown into chaos when she returns with a shocking mystery of her own.



A Great Country
By Shilpi Somaya Gowda

The seemingly perfect American dream of an immigrant family shatters when their son is arrested. This event forces them to confront cultural clashes, their definition of success, and their place in America.

FUN RIDE

On Father's Day, a dad carries his son on his shoulders at the Karnataka Dental Expo 2024, at Jayamahal Palace | ALLEN EGENUSE J

QUICKFIX

SCHEZWAN CHEESE SANDWICH

INGREDIENTS

- **Corn:** 1 cup
- **Capsicum:** 1/2, finely chopped
- **Onion:** 1, finely chopped
- **Schezwan sauce:** 2 tsp
- **Cheese:** 1 cup (grated)
- **Butter:** 1 tsp
- **Bread:** As required

METHOD

- In a bowl, add corn, capsicum, and onions and mix them together. • Then add Schezwan sauce and grated cheese and mix well. • Take two bread slices and apply butter to both sides. • Fill the mixture on the slice, and then place another slice on it. • In a pan, add a little butter and place the sandwich on the pan. • Fry it on both sides, then serve it hot.

Contributed by **Shiny Hadassah**, Hyderabad

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Flavours of Humour

Savour cupcakes, sandwiches, and coffee with an added dollop of humour, as some of Bengaluru's best comics try their material at this standup.

WHEN: June 17, 7.30pm
WHERE: Glen's Bakehouse, Kalyan Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Monday Mood

Raise your spirits after a hectic Monday by savouring handcrafted cocktails and vibe to soothing music to set yourself up for the whole week.

WHEN: June 17, 12pm
WHERE: Ottoman Restobar, Bellandur
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Trails to Remember

Embark on a trekking venture through Ramanagara's granitic hills famous for short rock climbs and experience the peacefulness of night camping.

WHEN: June 17, 6pm **WHERE:** Ramanagara Hills, Mysore Road
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Mumbles and Metaphors

A casual gathering for all those budding writers and literary enthusiasts to create an open space to share ideas and stories over a cup of chai.

WHEN: June 17, 7pm
WHERE: Small World, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Hit the Dance Floor

Dance the night away at this commercial hip-hop and Bollywood night, as DJ S/ash plays hit after hit.

WHEN: June 17, 7pm
WHERE: Toca Brigade, Ashok Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Bounce up

Experience the thrill of exploring a range of bouncing activities set over an area of 40,000 sqft and get the benefits of fun, adventure and fitness – all wrapped in one.

When: June 17, 11am
Where: Bounce Inc, Orion Mall 3rd floor, Rajajinagar
Details: bookmyshow.com

Wooden Canvas

Unleash your imagination using acrylic colours over a wooden plank at this art workshop. Take your work of art home and hang it on a wall to be inspired by it forever.

WHEN: June 17, 5pm
WHERE: Art Beat, HSR Layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Beyond Perception

Performer **Deeksha Kumar** explores complex horizons of truth and reality through Bharatanatyam, blended with original music scores.

WHEN: June 17, 7pm
WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

DR VIVEK ARORA

drvivekarora@hotmail.com

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

Since the onset of peak summers, my dog has become irritable and is having a loss of appetite and dehydration. How can we keep him at ease?

ASK AN XPERT

The heat this year is certainly challenging survival. We now have enough studies that confirm a correlation between pets' irritability and an increase in ambient temperatures. A drop in appetite and a lack of interest in any activity are associated with heat itself. One can always develop recipes to work around this problem. Cold buttermilk, ice cubes to lick, frozen slices of watermelon, and even chicken soup ice cubes are very common household measures that you can put to use to build an interest in food and make your pet have more water.

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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@xpress_bengaluru

FITBIT

PARIVRTTA PRASARITA PADOTTANASANA BLOCK

(REVOLVED WIDE-LEGGED FORWARD BEND POSE BLOCK)

This is a supported beginner-level variation of the foundational pose, Parivrtta Prasarita Padottanasana (Revolved Wide-Legged Forward Bend Pose). It is commonly found in dynamic and flowing styles of yoga such as Ashtanga, Vinyasa, and Power Yoga but is also incorporated into various static yoga styles, such as Hatha Yoga, to deepen the practice safely. Having the support helps the practitioner stay in the position for longer, releasing tension even from the connective tissues or fascia that support the muscles, organs, bones, joints, and other structures of the body. This mindful practice boosts mood, and one feels light.

STEPS

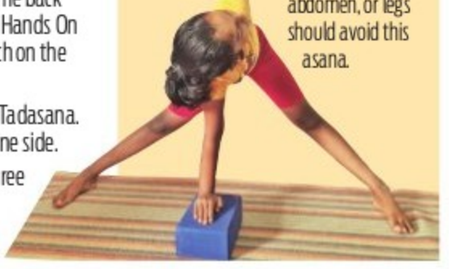
- Keep a block handy and start in Tadasana (Mountain Pose). Set the block at the highest or medium height, depending on your flexibility and comfort.
- Inhale, and stand in Standing Wide-Legged Pose Hands On Hips.
- Inahle. Exhale, hinge at the hips, and slowly bend forward in Half Wide Legged Forward Fold Pose On Hips.
- Bring the arms forward and reach for the yoga block with both hands. Adjust the height of your block so that your torso is parallel to the floor.
- Back and leg should be kept straight with the feet firmly placed on the ground.
- Follow the twist on the left first.
- Inhale, twist the torso and raise your left arm straight up as you press your right hand on the block.
- Turn your head and look up at the raised hand, intensifying the twist and opening the chest.
- Press your hand firmly into the block to stretch your spine and maintain a flat back.
- Inhale and stay here for about six breaths or as per body's capacity.
- Exhale, release, and come back to Prasarita Tadasana Hands On Hips. Repeat the stretch on the other side.
- Release and realign to Tadasana. Remove the block to one side.
- Release and relax in Three Part Breath Mountain Pose.

BENEFITS

- Block acts as a great support for beginners.
- Increases the strength and flexibility of the legs.
- Helps counteract the effects of hunching and slouching.
- Stimulates the digestive organs, aiding in detoxification.
- Stretches and strengthens the hamstrings, thighs, and calf muscles.
- Relaxes the body and mind.
- Strengthens the arms, shoulders, chest, abdomen, hips, and the entire back.
- Reduces the tensions at neck and shoulder.
- Improves flexibility of the spine, and the range of motion.
- Stretches the muscles around the ribs and chest.
- Brings stability between both sides of the hips and pelvic girdle.

LIMITATIONS

- Those who have any injury to the knees, hips, shoulders, neck, ribs, back muscles, or any recent surgery on the neck, shoulders, abdomen, or legs should avoid this asana.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER

PUZZLES OF RESILIENCE

Artist Aliza Mirza's acrylic on the triskelion, an ancient pagan symbol that is painted over the puzzle pieces, represents the past, present, and future. The cracks symbolise the hardships that we have faced and the resilience that keeps us going and makes us stronger.

From Greece and Rome to the sculptures in Khajuraho, here's a look at the various forms of love that is celebrated in myriad art works

PAINTED WITH PRIDE

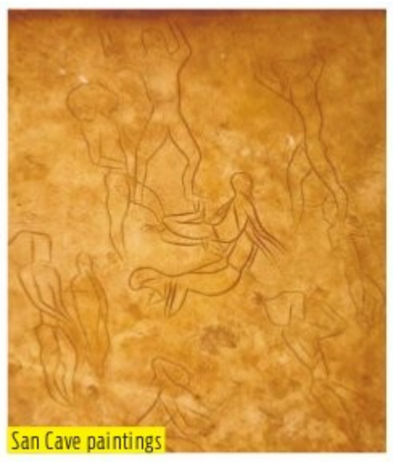
JITHA KARTHIKEYAN

THERE is a way out of every dark mist, over a rainbow trail.

Pride month is a celebration of this rainbow trail. The month of June commemorates years of struggle by the LGBTQIA+ community to have access to equal rights. For those who think that the universe has always been in black and white and the occasional greys do not matter, it may come as a surprise that every hue has been celebrated ever since the human race originated. Art history is replete with innumerable depictions of the existence of a multitude of sexual identities in most cultures.

History loudly proclaims an inclusive world in our past. Art stands testimony to the fact that gender and sexual preferences were personal choices and was never imposed. But today, many countries still criminalise homosexuality. India does not recognise same-sex marriages.

The LGBTQIA+ community is harassed under various public order laws. Is it not time to ask ourselves if we have allowed the rigidities of narrow thinking to take over our perceptions, while we pride ourselves on our technological developments? When queerness has always been a notable part of our sexuality, as our visual documentations in art history go to prove, why are we so unyielding to acceptance of what does not fit our definitions of 'normal'? Why do we hide our closed minds behind the veil of societal restrictions? These artworks have stood the test of time, bearing their multi-hued stories, to remind us that all forms of love exist within us. Let us celebrate it with arms wide open.



San Cave paintings

What The Caves Tell

Line drawings of hunting scenes and galloping animals are the images that come to our mind at the mention of prehistoric cave paintings. However, along with these regular scenes of the just beginning to evolve human species, there are several drawings of homosexual activities. The cave paintings in Addaura, Sicily are believed to have the earliest depictions of homosexual relationships between two males and the San Cave paintings in Zimbabwe show many male figures engaging in it. Artefacts from the Upper Paleolithic period like phallic rods have been interpreted as same-sex eroticism.

Victory by Michelangelo

Victorious Bonds

The Renaissance era's poster boy, Michelangelo lived in a period when same-sex relationships were extremely common and with his clout in the Vatican, he had no reason to hide his gay relationships. His sculpture, Victory, was modelled after his lover. The era saw many more artists incorporating homosexuality into their creations too.

Ancient Asian Romance

Same-sex relationships have thrived in Japan for millennia. There are several visual representations that document such bonds but the process of Westernisation dealt a huge blow to the openness of such revelations. The Indian civilisation was clearly receptive to varied sexual identities with several homosexual references found in the Vedas, the *Kama Sutra* and the epics. Deities such as Ardhanareeswara were worshipped in an androgynous form. The Khajuraho temple complex of the 10th century, famed for its erotic sculptures, has numerous carvings of lesbian women. Gay couples, however, barely feature in them. Clearly, homosexuality in India was not seen as something deviant before British rule.

Sculptures at Khajuraho temple complex

Ancient Tales From Greece

Sappho of Lesbos

The Greek civilisation was an ideal society for men. Gender did not figure in the choice of a sexual partner. In fact, homosexuality played an integral part in Ancient Greece. The rulers believed that when men were lovers, they would fight with stronger courage. The Sacred Host army unit from 378 BC, was made up of only homosexual couples, and 150 of them! It is true that this unit proved to be the most brutally capable too. The concept of homosexuality and all the other contemporary terminologies did not exist then, and the gender to which someone was physically attracted to was not considered to be a defining characteristic. Sexual identity was unheard of.

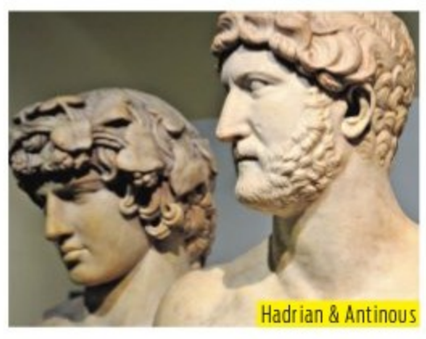
Ancient Greek women did not have it this easy though. The poet Sappho of Lesbos who was well acclaimed for her poems dedicated to female beauty and was clearly a lesbian, was, however, ridiculed for behaving like a 'masculine woman'.

Mummified Love

Idet and Ruiu

The gods of Ancient Egypt were unbound by mortal rules and same sex relationships did not strip them of their divinity. The human population too had its fair share of gay couples. Niankhkhnum and Chnumhotep, two male royal servants, were thought to have been a homosexual couple, because of their unusual depiction in recorded history. The hieroglyphs in their tomb where they were buried together, show them in a nose to nose-kissing position which, at that period, was a kiss strictly reserved for straight couples. Their joint tomb further depicts them in intimate embraces or holding hands. What then of the women? There seems to have been very few examples of women leading queer lives. The sculpture of two Egyptian women, Idit and Ruiu is one of the rare depictions of a lesbian couple.

Latin Intimacy



Hadrian & Antinous

If you thought Greece was cool, then check out Ancient Rome. The Roman Emperor Nero officially married a man and he even dressed as a bride! Julius Caesar of the 'Et tu Brute' fame, had a relationship with King Nicomedes IV, which was even turned into a song by his marching troops — "Caesar subdued the Gauls but Nicomedes subdued him". But it was Emperor Hadrian's homosexual relationship with his hunting companion that would pass the test of being the most romantic one. His love for the young lad was so intense that he built monuments and declared him a deity after his untimely death. Strangely, female love was almost unheard of in Ancient Rome, or perhaps they were more discreet.

Strings of Society

Kannada pop singer Alok Babu's latest song *Maryade Prashne* is a funny take on living in a society filled with comparisons and contradictions

MONIKA MONALISA

Society norms and perceptions have long dictated how people make choices and decisions. But who would have known it could turn into an inspiration for Kannada pop singer **Alok Babu**, aka, All Ok's latest pop song *Maryade Prashne*, which is currently trending on YouTube with 306K views. For Babu, the inspiration for the lyrics comes from 'every other individual'. "Most families are greatly concerned about how society perceives them.

Even when it comes to a small purchase, many of these unsaid dynamics come into play. I didn't want to take a jab, all I wanted to do was show a humorous side," says Babu. While the topic was interesting, the push for turning it into a song came when Babu was supposed to be part of a film project with a similar name. "Last year I was supposed to be a part of the film called *Maryade Prashne* but it did not take off. But I liked the idea and wanted to do something musical with it," he says.

The video looks fun with many catchy dance steps and Babu hopes to put the Kannada independent music scene on the world platform. "If you see some of today's top artistes like Anirudh (Ravichander), they come up with good music. I want to have a similar thing in Kannada independent music. So while the idea came from the movie project, it is also creating good music that makes me happy," he says.

Known to create chartbusters, it has been a while since the rapper created and released songs. Though Babu was missing the 'whole madness' of making music, he didn't want to come up with anything he was not satisfied with. "I have been busy with my shows and tours. In between, I was also part of a few film projects. Though there were a few ideas, I didn't want to do a half-hearted job. So independent music took a backseat for some time, but now, I am back," says Babu.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SNEHALATA** legally wedded spouse of JC-414081K Sub (Clk) Prahlad Singh Malik residing at Vill - Fugana, Post - Fugana, Teh-Budhana, Distt - Muzaffarnagar (UP), PIN-247776, have changed my name from **SNEHALATA** to **SNEHLATA**, vide affidavit dated 11 Jun 2024 before Notary Y.R. CHANDRASEKAR, Kanakanagar, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Praveen Chinnappa** S/o Kushalappa.C.C R/a Panchavati, Srimangala, Near Union Bank of India, Kurchi, Srimangala, Virajpet, Kodagu District, Karnataka-571217. Have Changed My Name from **PRAVEEN CHINNAPPA. C. K** as was in my previous passport & SSLC Marks card To **PRAVEEN CHINNAPPA** as per my Aadhaar Card. Vide Affidavit Date:14/06/2024. Sworn Before Notary: Sumangala Hegde.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mrs. HEMA**, Resident of No. A-703, Orchid Green Apartment, Hennur Bagalur Main Road, Opposite Capital Supermarket, Bangalore-562149, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Mrs HEMA SANTOSH** to **Mrs. HEMA** henceforth I shall be known and called as **Mrs. HEMA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 15/06/2024 sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. RAJENDRA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **J. EDWIN LAWRENCE SUDHAKAR**, S/o. C. Jayaveeran, Aged about 54 years, R/at 4, KHB Flat, 4th Block, Lal Bagh Siddapura, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru - 560 011, do hereby declare that I have changed my minor child name from **BRYAN SINCLAIRE .E** to **BRAYAN SINCLAIRE .E** vide affidavit dated 14.06.2024 sworn to before Ravikumar .V, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, 13627112f Hav **JATHAR RANJIT BAPUSAHAB** Presently Residing At Vpo Kurundwad Bhairundwadi, Teh Shirol, Distt Kolhapur (Mh), Have Changed My Son Name From **SHLOK** to **JATHAR SHLOK RANJIT** Vide Affidavit No. Subin-Kakakscub 0816459137838849w Dated 14th June 2024.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SATISH KUMAR R (NEW NAME) SATISH R (OLD NAME)** S/o Begur Ramaiah, R/at No. 56, 7th Main, Dattathreya Nagara, Hosakerehalli, B.S.K.3rd Stage, Bangalore, do hereby have change my name from **SATISH R** to **SATISH KUMAR R,** Vide affidavit dated 14.06.2024, Sworn before Notary V.Rajashekara, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Shilpi Mondal** W/o Kuntal Pal R/a No.145, 9th Main, 60 Ft Road, J C Nagar, Kurubarahalli, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560086. **SHILPA MONDAL** To **SHILPI MONDAL** Some Documents My Name Is Mentioned As Shilpa Mondal And In Some other Documents Shilpi Mondal. Both Names Are My Name And My Correct Name Is Shilpi Mondal. Vide Affidavit Date: 14/06/2024. Sworn Before Notary: Vanajakshi.R

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AMBRESH.P.** (Old Name), S/o PATALAPPA .P. Aged about 36 years, Resident at NO.356, SUBRAYAPPA LAYOUT, JAKKUR, BENGALURU NORTH, YELAHANKA, BENGALURU-560064, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **AMBRESH .P.** (Old Name) to **AMBARISH .P.** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **AMBARISH .P.** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 14/06/2024 before Notary **GANGARAJU .B.N.** at BENGALURU

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Nataraja B.V.**, Age 34 years, S/o. Venkataramu, Residing at No. 91, 13th Cross, Kuvempu Nagar, Ittamadu, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560 085, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Nataraja B.V.** to **NATESH B V** vide affidavit dated 15.06.2024 sworn to before B.K.R. Krishnamurthy, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, JUGNU PATHAK, W/o Paritosh Pathak, aged 45 years, residing at No.D85, Nehru Colony, Haridwar Road, Custom Office, Dharmapur, Dehradun Dist., Uttarakhand State, Pin 248001, currently residing at No.5/2, Mandalay Lines, Banaswadi Garrison, M S Nagar Post, Bangalore-560033 have changed my daughter's name from **KAAVYA to KAAVYA PATHAK** Vide affidavit dated 15-06-2024 sworn before advocate and notary K. Venkateshan, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Dhanush Thimmaiah S/o Brijesh Kalappa, resident of # 50/6, Palace Road, Vasantha Nagar, Bangaluru560001 have changed my name from **DHANUSH THIMMAIAH PALACHANDA** to **DHANUSH THIMMAIAH** vide Affidavit Dated 14/June/2024 Sworn Before Notary R. Vishwanath, Bangaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NAGAPPA HUCHCHAPPA SHIVASHARAN**, S/o Huchchappa age 35 years, R/at Anjutagi Indi Taluk Bijapur-586204, today at Bangalore do hereby declare that in my adopted daughter's **PEDDIVEDU RESHMA** father name has been changed to **NAGAPPA SHIVASHARAN** from **NOWSHAD BHASHA MADDUSAHEB** vide Affidavit dated 1/6/2024. sworn before advocate and Notary **P.N. NAGESHA** at Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **CHANDRIKA V.M**, W/o V.R.Muralidhar, aged about 56 years, R/at S-1, Tirumala Gardenia No.2, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Vidyagiri Layout, Nagarabhavi 1st Stage, Bangalore - 560072. before my marriage my name has been mentioned as **R.CHANDRIKA**, but after my marriage I am intend to change my initial from **"R.CHANDRIKA"** To **"CHANDRIKA V.M"** above mentioned both names are one and the same and belongs to me only and in future I am continued my new name as **"CHANDRIKA V.M" only.** vide affidavit dated **14-06-2024**, sworn before notary **G.Dayananda**, at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SRI. PRASANNA. G. B,** S/o Basve Gowda, aged about 31 years, R/at No. 355-2, Dairy Beedi, Gurudevanahalli, Chikkarasinakere, Mandya-571422, Present residing at No. 84, Amrutha Dhama, 11 'A' Cross, A-Sector, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru-560064, have changed my name from **BORE GOWDA G.B** to **PRASANNA G. B,** vide affidavit dated 13/6/2024 sworn to before Prakasha C advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ASHA PETER aged 51 years, W/o Peter K P, Residing at No.721/A, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Vinayaka Nagar, Old Airport Road, Bangalore-560017 have changed my name from ASHA T THOMAS to ASHA PETER Vide affidavit dated 15-06-2024 sworn before advocate and notary K. Venkateshan, Bengaluru**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) RAJMUNI DEVI** mother of Service No. 825598R Rank: NC/E VIJAY BASFORE residing at quarter No. 181/2, Command Hospital, Air Force, Agram Post, Bengaluru 560007, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) RAJMUNI DEVI** to **(NEW NAME) RAJMONI BASFORE** vide affidavit dated 13.06.2024 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SAKAMMA DIDIGHI,** W/o Kallesh aged 32 years, having Passport No. R9520770 issued at Bengaluru, R/at Flat No. 006, SLV ROYAL APARTMENT, 3rd A Main Road, Vinayaka Layout, Near Vinayaka Temple, T.C. Palya Signal, Bhattarahalli, Bengaluru-560049, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHAHEEN RABBANI** to **SAKAMMA DIDIGHI** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SAKAMMA DIDIGHI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 15/06/2024 sworn before Advocate and Notary **SRINATHA .D.R** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHAVNA BAFNA**, W/o. Vikas Bafna, Aged about 41 years, R/at No. 5, 9th Cross, 6th 'A' Main, 3rd Block, Thyagarajanagar, BBMP South, Bengaluru-560 070, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **JAIN BHAVNAKUMARI LUNCHANDRAJI** to **BHAVNA BAFNA** vide affidavit dated 14.06.2024 sworn to before Prakasha .C, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Amrutha** daughter of N Satyendra resident of #35/1, Nala Road, Sivan Chetty Garden, Bharathinagar, Bangalore - 560042 have changed my name from **Amrutha** to **S Amrutha** vide Affidavit dated 11/06/2024 before Notary Ravikumar V at City Civil Court, Bangalore.

NAME DECLARATION
I, **Nikhil Mahale,** aged about 45 years, son of Mr. Vinayak Balu Mahale, residing at Flat No. 001, Ground Floor, Sree Casa Fortuna, 1st Main Road, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Byrasandra, C V Raman Nagar Post, Bengaluru – 560 093, previously referred to by variations of my name as 'Nikhil Mahale', 'Nikhil Vinayak Mahale', 'Mahale Nikhil V.' and/or 'Nikkhil Vinayak Mahale', shall henceforth be known only by the name **"Nikhil Mahale"**.
I hereby declare that I shall use only the name **"NIKHIL MAHALE"** henceforth in all documentation and correspondence in all personal and official communication/records. In this regard, I have also carried out the legal formalities to record such intent as required by the laws of the Republic of India. vide affidavit dated **13-06-2024,** sworn before notary **Ravikumar V.** at Bangalore.

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RAMARASA WILL REINTRODUCE ME TO THE SILVER SCREEN

Karthik Mahesh, the Bigg Boss winner, says he was happy to have his introduction poster launched by Kichcha Sudeep, and reveals details about the film

A SHARADHAA

KARTHIK Mahesh has set benchmarks since his debut on the small screen. He ventured into cinema with Sagar Puranik's *Dollu*, which garnered acclaim and won a national award. The winner of Bigg Boss season 10, Karthik is now set to make a comeback on the silver screen with Giriraj BM's latest film *Ramarasa*, produced by Guru Deshpande under the G-Cinemas banner. Kichcha Sudeep was invited to unveil the introduction of Karthik as the hero of *Ramarasa*, making the event a grand affair.

Speaking to *CE* on the sidelines of the launch event, Karthik says, "Sudeep sir held my hand at the winning moment in Bigg Boss, and undoubtedly his support continues." Talking about his upcoming film *Ramarasa*, for which he has begun shooting, Karthik shares, "While *Dollu* was a bridge film, *Ramarasa* will be my first commercial project." Karthik expressed happiness about how his stint in Bigg Boss has changed the industry's perception of him. "I have reached more people and the film fraternity, so much so that I am approached with a lot of opportunities."

Kichcha Sudeep

Karthik says he listened to more than 20 scripts after Bigg Boss before signing up for *Ramarasa*. "After portraying a village youth in *Dollu*, I am excited about *Ramarasa* as it is a cult horror film; something I have not tried before. It's a concept-based commercial entertainer."

Karthik also has another project lined up, which is billed to be a romance film. "Each step has been a benchmark in my career. Though initially I was offered a software job, I realized on my first day of just getting ready to work that a 9 to 5 job wasn't cut out for me. I expressed this to my father, who supported my decision. Since then, I pursued auditions through various mediums, and today, I'm happy to be where I belong. That's the magic of the silver screen, with its vast reach."

Interestingly, along with Karthik Mahesh, the makers are introducing 16 fresh faces who have trained under G-Academy. *Ramarasa* will also have Balaji Manohar among others in a pivotal role.

Chandan Shetty's *Vidyarthi Vidyarthiniyare* gets release date

CE FEATURES

CHANDAN Shetty, a rapper turned actor, is ready to impress audiences once again with not just one, but three upcoming film releases. The anticipation about which film would hit the screens first has finally been resolved with '*Vidyarthi Vidyarthiniyare*' taking the lead, scheduled for a statewide release on July 19.

While the film's music is composed by Vasu Dixit, Chandan Shetty, along with music director Vijeth Krishna, known for their popular collaboration on '3 Pegs', have teamed up again for one track - the 'Student Party' song. The song has lyrics penned by director and lyricist Chetan Kumar.

Reflecting on the significance of the song, Chandan shares, "When you think of party songs composed by me, 'Tekila', 'Party Freak', and '3 Pegs' immediately come to mind. Now, this 'Student Party' song is the latest to arrive, and as a director who is also a lyricist, Chetan has a deep understanding of the party culture and has brilliantly captured its essence in his lines. This song marks our collaboration under the T-Series banner."

Director and lyricist Chetan adds, "The song has turned out exceptionally well, thanks to the vision of our directors. If they appreciate the lyrics, half the battle is won, and Vijeth's programming adds a Bollywood-esque charm to the track."

The film, produced by Shivalingegowda and directed by Arun Amukta, features a talented ensemble cast including fresh faces like Amar, Bhavana, Manasvi, Vivan, along with seasoned actors Bhavya, Sunil Puranik, and Raghu Ramakoppa, among others.

A still from the film

Pruthvi Ambaar's next with director Chandrashekar Bandiyappa titled *Chowkidar*

CE FEATURES

WE had earlier reported that Chandrashekar Bandiyappa, known for directing Rathaavara, has teamed up with Dia actor Pruthvi Ambaar. Now, the makers have announced that the film has been titled *Chowkidar*. The title was unveiled by actor Sriimurali, who also extended his wishes to the entire team. Starring Pruthvi in the titular role, *Chowkidar* will release not only in Kannada but also in multiple languages, aimed to reach audiences in various languages.

"Don't judge *Chowkidar* by its title alone—it's a family entertainer," says Chandrasekhar Bandiyappa, renowned for his diverse storytelling from comedy in Aane Pataki to cult themes in Rathaavara, and more. Produced by Kallahalli Chandrasekhar under the Vidya Shekhar Entertainment banner, the film is set to feature music by Sachin Basrur, with lyrics by V. Nagendra Prasad and Pramod Maravante. The film's team plans to gradually reveal more details about the cast and crew. Meanwhile, Pruthvi Ambaar also has *Bhuvanam Gaganam*, which is getting ready for release.

Chandrashekar Bandiyappa, Sriimurali and Pruthvi Ambaar

Miles Teller to star in an *Officer and a Gentleman* remake

MILES Teller is all set to headline the remake of 1982's An Officer and a Gentleman, a Temple Hill Productions venture. The 1982 film revolves around Zack Mayo (Richard Gere), a Naval aviator who has a tussle with Gunnery Sergeant Emil Foley (the late Louis Gossett Jr). At the same time, he has a romantic relationship with a small-town factory employee named Paula (Debra Winger). Gossett Jr became the first African-American actor to win the Best Supporting Actor Oscar in 1983 for his portrayal of the drill instructor in the film, directed by Taylor Hackford, which also bagged an Academy Award for the song 'Up Where We Belong'. Matt Johnson wrote the first draft of the film, while Dana Fox penned the second one.

A story of love, hope & redemption

LOVE LI

Director: Chethan Keshav

Cast: Vasishta Simha, Stefy Patel, Malavika Avinash, Sadhu Kokila, Dattatreya, and Vanshika

A SHARADHAA

ONE look at director Chethan Keshav's *Love Li*, and it makes us consider the age-old question: Can love truly transform a man with a tumultuous past? Or is his past bound to haunt him forever? The narrative puts us on a roller-coaster journey with the tumultuous life of Jai (Vasishta N Simha), an orphan-turned-reformed-gangster. His fateful encounter with Janani (Stefy Patel) sets the stage for a compelling exploration of transformation and self-discovery. As the story unfolds, we witness Jai's gradual transformation, catalysed by his encounter with Janani. Despite Jai's haunted past, Janani's unwavering belief in love reignites his spirit, leading them to embark on a journey of love and sacrifice. Their registered marriage symbolises a newfound commitment to each other, transcending societal norms and familial expectations. Jai's unwavering devotion to Janani is evident as he navigates the challenges of parenthood with tender care and concern.

Just when Jai and Janani believe their life is perfect, tragedy strikes as Janani falls critically ill with a debilitating disease. Devastated, Jai faces new challenges and complexities as Janani's life hangs in the balance. Will he find a way to save her? Will this crisis push him back to his dark past, this time as a fighter determined to save the woman he loves?

Love Li is not without its flaws. The film's narrative, while compelling, occasionally veers into familiar territory, treading the fine line between cliche and innovation. The plot, though rife with emotion and drama, occasionally falls victim to predictability. The director attempts to get into details, and having a few more extra characters risks lengthening the narrative.

Vasishta Simha as lead, demonstrates his versatility by portraying a character rich in depth and complexity. Balancing sophistication with rawness, he adeptly portrays the inner conflict of redemption versus past shadows in *Love Li*. Director Chethan Keshav's vision depart Vasishta from his previous roles and allows the actor to effortlessly navigate through gripping fight sequences and vulnerable moments, balancing between being a hero of both the masses and the elite.

RATING 3/5

This is Stefy Patel's Kannada debut, and she shines as Janani, showcasing the transformative power of love in even the darkest of times. The palpable chemistry between Vasishta Simha and Stefy Patel further enhances the film's authenticity. Joining the two main leads are Dattatreya, Sadhu Kokila, child artist, Vanshika, comedian Suraj, and Sameeksha, rounding out the story.

Malavika Avinash's role as a doctor is a surprise, and her simple portrayal suggests that doctors can be both a friend and saviour at times.

The film has a couple of melodies by Anoop Seelin that add to its charm. *Love Li* prompts viewers to contemplate the intricacies of the human experience and the unwavering strength of hope amid challenges. Liberating itself from traditional genre limitations, the film tells a story of love, strength, and the determined search for redemption.

KOTEE

Director: Parameshwar Gundkal

Cast: Dhananjay, Ramesh Indira, Moksha Kushal, Tara, Shamanur, and Thanuja Venkatesh

RATING 3/5

DHANANJAYA SHOULDERS THIS TALE OF SINCERITY AND STRUGGLE

A SHARADHAA

LIKE a galvanic boost of wisdom, director Parameshwar Gundkal's (Param) Kotee echoes the time-honoured proverb, 'Honesty is the best policy.' It stresses that sincerity and hard work not only fill pockets but also nourish the spirit, making *Kotee* (Dhananjaya) an exemplar for every middle-class family.

Supporting his mother, brother, and sister, *Kotee*, living in Janatha City, carefully deals with financial decisions, such as those regarding bank loans and expenses like the purchase of a refrigerator. At the same time, however, he dreams of establishing his own cab service. However, the journey towards the fulfilment of such aspirations is not without its challenges, as circumstances stand in his way. For example, under Dinoo Savakaar, a local don, *Kotee* finds himself reliant on Savakaar's truck for his business. Proud of *Kotee*'s sincerity, Savakaar also seeks to manipulate him for personal gain, tempting him with words like "Gundege Edigya?" (Do you have the guts?) And when *Kotee* would patiently reply, "I've never asked you to cease your harmful actions. You don't request that I initiate them." However, will *Kotee* fall prey? What leads him to Rs 31 lakh credit, and can he repay it?

Moksha Kushal plays a chartered accountant named Navami, who is entangled in *Kotee*'s life through frequent cab rides. With a penchant for stealing during life's hiccups, she adds another layer of complexity.

What catches the attention of the audience is *Kotee*'s determination to settle his debt and reclaim his lost dignity. Once scorned by life's challenges, *Kotee* turns the tables, facing his struggles head-on. Every twist and turn, every moment of triumph and challenge, enriches the plot.

In his debut film, Param blends family drama, thriller, and romance craftily. His adept narrative creates a story brimming with humour, sentiment, unexpected twists, and songs, including one anchored by a recurring tiger dance. Drawing from his television background, Param's transition to film is commendable, though a sharper focus on pacing could have enhanced the experience.

Daali Dhananjaya anchors *Kotee* with his portrayal of a middle-class man with a penchant for ice cream, dreams, and familial love. His portrayal, marked by patience and integrity, elevates the film, painting a compelling portrait that draws audiences deeply into his world. Ramesh Indira's portrayal of a cunning villain adds depth to the character, elevating it beyond that of a typical antagonist. Moksha's performance as a kleptomaniac girl adds emotional depth but doesn't quite sync with the story. Similarly, Rangayana Raghu's brief yet impactful role showcases his versatility but feels disconnected from the family drama. On the other hand, *Kotee*'s family and Dinoo Saavkar are well-written, while Tara embodies maternal complexity with nuance. Prithvi Shamanur and Thanuja Venkatesh, and their relations with Kotee, showcase the complexity of human nature, enriching the sibling dynamics.

The film's sync sound dubbing is well executed, with Vasuki Vaibhav's music and Nobin Paul's background score complementing the theme. Arun Brahma's cinematography captures the essence of Kotee intimately. Param's script and direction, bolstered by Dhananjaya's stellar performance, make Kotee a triumph. Despite its flaws, the film offers poignant episodes such as Kotee's peculiar habits and a satisfyingly unexpected ending. Like its protagonist, the film strives for greatness, albeit not always achieving it, yet its sincerity resonates, making the journey worthwhile. The film's strength lies in its honesty, portraying a principled struggle against life's challenges without reverting to tergiversation.